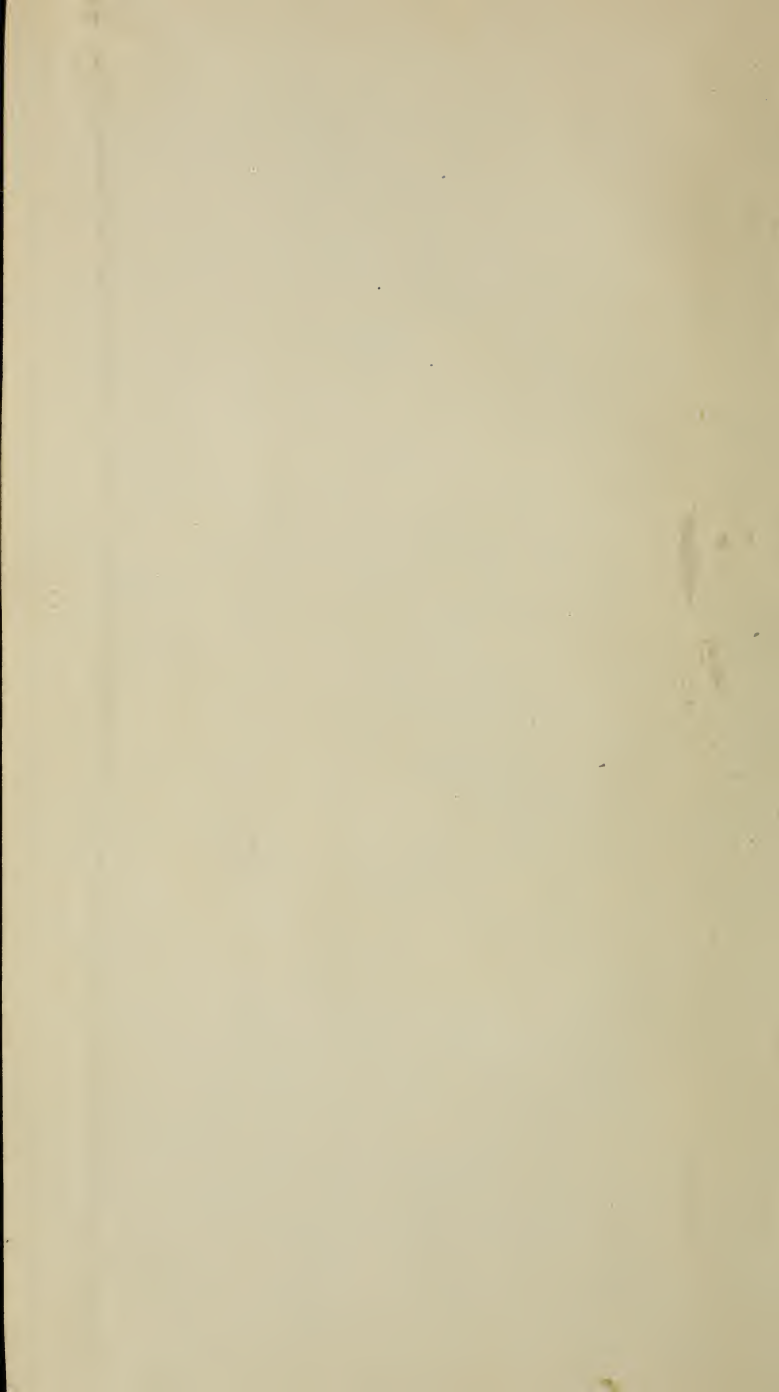


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*Alexander 1<sup>st</sup>  
Emperor of Russia.*

*Published by Dean & Munday 35, Threadneedle Street.*

AN IMPARTIAL AND AUTHENTIC

LIFE

OF

ALEXANDER,

EMPEROR OF RUSSIA;

*From his earliest Age to his departure from England.*

PARTICULARLY DURING

THE

INVASION OF HIS DOMINIONS BY BUONAPARTE.

A

NARRATIVE OF HIS CAMPAIGNS:

THE

SUFFERINGS OF THE FRENCH IN RUSSIA,

DURING THEIR RETREAT.

AN ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF

MOSCOW;

THE

INVASION OF FRANCE AND CAPTURE OF PARIS;

HIS ARRIVAL IN THIS COUNTRY,

MANNER HE WAS RECEIVED,

PLACES HE VISITED IN LONDON and ELSEWHERE,

AND HIS FINAL DEPARTURE.

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MEMOIRS  
OF THE  
*LIFE*  
OF THE  
**Emperor Alexander.**

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Alexander the first, Emperor of all the Russias, was born 23d December 1777. In his person he is tall and well-proportioned; but, being deaf, to facilitate his hearing he stoops. His deportment is condescending, and dignified: his face is full, very fair, his eyes blue, and expressive of that beneficent mildness, which is one of the prominent features of his character. In October 1793, he was married to Maria Louisa Elizabeth Alexi-ena, of Baden, born January 3, 1779.

In the discharge of his public duties, he displays great activity and acuteness, but without show and bustle. The leading features of his mind are sound discretion and humanity. He is so much an enemy to parade, that he is frequently seen, wrapped up in his regimental cloak, riding about the capital alone, upon a little common horse: in this manner he has been known to administer to the wants of the poor. He drives about Petersburg in a chariot perfectly plain, of a dark olive colour, drawn by four horses, driven by a bearded coachman, a common little postilion, and attended by a single footman. Soldiers are always upon the look-out for him, to give timely notice to the guard of his approach. Without this precaution, it would be impossible, amidst the crowd of carriages which is to be seen in the Residence, to pay him the honour due to his rank. He is very

much attached to the English, numbers of whom are settled in the empire, and have formed, under the auspices of the government, a sort of colony. The Emperor has often been heard to say, that "the man within whose reach Heaven has placed the greatest materials for making life happy, was, in his opinion, an *English country gentleman*."

He inherits from Catherine the Great, his grandmother, an elevation of sentiment, and an unalterable equality of temper, a mind just and penetrating, and an uncommon discretion; but a reserve and circumspection almost unsuitable to his age. Long before he came to the throne, his humanity had acquired him the hearts of the soldiers; his good sense, the admiration of the officers; and was the constant mediator between the autocrat and those unhappy persons, who, by some trifling neglect, provoked imperial wrath and vengeance.

Heaven seems to have destined him to overthrow a tyranny which aimed to enslave the world; and most gloriously has he accomplished his destiny.

Upon the morning after the fatal termination of the reign and life of the Emperor Paul, on the 11th March 1801 (O.S.), his son Alexander, then in the 24th year of his age, was announced as his successor in the chapel of the Winter Palace, where he received the homage of the principal nobility; and, notwithstanding the terrible catastrophe which had just occurred, the prospect which opened to them, by the accession of their favourite to the throne, spread through the people an universal joy. They promised themselves every thing that could be expected from the pupil of the great Catharine, in whose steps he promised to tread.

It required, however, no inconsiderable degree of energy of character, which only true virtue and a sincere devotion to the decrees of Providence could give, to ascend with fortitude a throne so recently stained with the blood of his father and grandfather.

The wise measures which were immediately taken to calm the public mind, to remedy the mischiefs of the former bad government, and to conciliate all ranks of

people in favour of the new one, evinced a degree of ability and strength of mind greater than was to be expected even from the mildness of the new Emperor's disposition: for within a fortnight afterwards, the following ukasses were issued:

1. All prisoners of state are set at liberty.
2. All the late laws relative to contraband goods are abolished.
3. The tariff of tolls and customs of 1782 is reintroduced.
4. *The English seamen are released from confinement.*
5. *All societies and clubs are permitted.*
6. The Order of Malta is to be nearly suppressed.
7. The Order of Saint Waldimer is restored.
8. Every body may dress as he pleases, provided he does not violate public decorum.
9. The importation of books and literary productions of every sort is again permitted.
10. The regiments are to bear their old names, and the former regiment of Guards to be re-organized.
11. Every person, whether native, foreigner, or exile, shall freely enter or quit the Russian dominions, without any molestation or difficulty on the frontiers.
12. "Alexander, by the grace of God, &c. Whereas our manufacturers have not yet gained the necessary perfection, nor are sufficient to supply the exigence of our empire, We do hereby command, that the prohibition against the importation of china, earthen and glass wares, steel tools and instruments, hardwares, silks, cottons, and linens, be from this moment suppressed; and that, for the present, the tariff of 1797 be in force.

All the prohibitions against the exportation of corn were removed, and peace and good understanding were re-established between the courts of London and Petersburg, which had been so unfortunately interrupted by the impolitic conduct of the late Russian Emperor.

Towards the end of the year 1801, there was a temporary suspension of hostilities throughout all Europe;



and the Emperor fitted out at his own expence, two vessels for a voyage of discovery round the world, under the command of Captain Krusenstern. These ships were provided with every necessary for the accomplishment of the voyage; and several eminent men of letters and science volunteered their services on this occasion.

Towards the end of the year 1802, the Emperor became awake to the importance of checking the ambition of France, before Bonaparte had plundered and enslaved all Germany, and extended his usurpations to the shores of the Baltic. A new levy of 100,000 men was ordered to recruit the Russian army; thus the Emperor at once increased the bitter enmity of the French Ruler, and acquired the confidence and admiration of whatever yet remained independent in Europe, now agitated by the murder of the Duke d'Enghien—the tragical and lamented fate of that unfortunate prince—the cold-blooded malice of the monster by whose command it was executed—and the shameful violation of the laws of nations, and of the German empire, by which it was attended—made the deepest impression on every sovereign, and on every feeling mind in Europe; but on none more than that of Alexander, the youthful and amiable sovereign of Russia. Not contented, therefore, with causing his ambassador at Paris to remonstrate in the strongest manner upon the subject, he presented, by his minister at Ratisbon, a formal note to the Diet there established protesting against it.

In consequence of the arbitrary proceedings of France, the Emperor Alexander became more impressed than ever with the necessity of making every exertion to reduce a power, which a concurrence of extraordinary circumstances had rendered so formidable, and which, from the manner in which it was administered, was productive of such monstrous abuses. Influenced by these considerations, the Emperor entered, towards the close of 1804, into active negotiations with Great Britain; and at the same time made every exertion to preserve the peace of Europe, again disturbed by the restless ambition of Bonaparte, who had resolved on the humiliation of Austria, and the destruction of the independence of Germany. The endeavours of the Emperor to maintain the peace of the continent, however, were unsuccessful;

and preparations were made for the contest which was about to ensue.

Having superintended the arrangements and preparations necessary for sending three great armies into the field, destined to act in aid of Austria, and which were to enter Germany successively, he (at a moment when the French having violated the Prussian territory, his presence might have been of the greatest consequence) suddenly appeared at Berlin, which city he reached on the 26th of October. Here he gained all hearts by his affable and engaging manners, and seemed for a moment to have infused some portion of his spirit into the Prussian councils. But the ruin of the Austrian army at Ulm, and the retreat of the first Russian army from the Inn, changed the aspect of affairs, and compelled the Emperor to return with equal rapidity, and place himself at the head of his troops.

It is not necessary here to give the history of the unfortunate campaign which nearly destroyed the Austrian empire, and the independence of Europe, at the battle of Austerlitz. The Emperor Alexander performed all that could be expected from the magnanimity of his character, and the sincerity of his policy. In this fatal battle he exhibited the most courageous personal devotion to the cause in which he had engaged. He placed himself at the head of the fourth column of the allied army and constantly remained with the infantry during the whole of the terrible conflict, exhibiting great proof of presence of mind and military ability. When the fortune of the day turned to the side of the French, the efforts of Alexander were most conspicuous. It is said, that he thrice, at the head of his guards, charged the enemy; and, by his gallantry, not only secured the retreat of the remainder of the allied army, which would otherwise have been cut to pieces, but actually saved the greater part of the Russian artillery, which he rescued and carried off with him, after it had been taken possession of by the victorious French. Nor do we find that his nobleness of mind, or magnanimity of conduct, deserted him when the fatal issue of that day decided the fate of the war. He made no proposition for peace, or offers of submission to the conqueror. To the humiliating conditions imposed by the conqueror upon the

Emperor of Austria, Alexander, with his accustomed greatness of mind, refused to become a party; and, accordingly caused his army, although under very distressing circumstances, to commence its retreat, on the 6th of December 1804, from the Austrian states, preserving at the same time too formidable a front for pursuit or molestation. But the armies of Napoleon falling upon the Prussian troops before they had time to re-unite, defeated them; and the capital, unprotected, became for the French an easy conquest; and, finally, they had made themselves masters of the greatest part of the provinces of the kingdom. In this state of affairs, seeing that the neighbouring power which separated France from the western provinces of the Russian empire was deprived of all means of defence, it became indispensably necessary for his Majesty to advance the army under the conduct of Field-marshal Count Kaminsky, for the defence of the Russian territory.

During the campaign that ensued, the Russian army under General Beningsen disputed, and successfully disputed, the power of France: at Pultusk, Eylau, and Heilsberg, they conquered; and maintained its honour unimpaired in the unequal battle of Friedland.

It was, however, judged inexpedient to continue to oppose the vast accumulation of force which France was now able to use; accordingly an armistice was agreed to, at the instance of the Russian general, which produced the peace which soon afterwards was signed at Tilsit.

Very shortly after this peace, the amicable relations of Russia with this country were interrupted; and the unfortunate expedition against Copenhagen, under Lord Cathcart and Admiral Gambier, completely deprived us of the favourable opinion of the Emperor Alexander.

The expectation of assistance from England, whether well or ill founded, was the cause, not of the peace of Tilsit, but of the temper with which it was concluded. Out of twenty dispatches received from an ambassador with the Emperor, there was not one in which he did not say—"Send assistance, or Russia will fail you: make a diversion that shall take part of the weight of



the war off Russia, or she will withdraw from it." This assistance was not given, and Russia was compelled to conclude the treaty of Tilsit—not, however, before the Emperor Alexander had endeavoured to mediate a peace between Great Britain and France. Upon the refusal of our court to accept this offer, a declaration of a hostile nature was issued by the Emperor, and the two countries most interested in the welfare of each other were unfortunately placed in a state of war. The adherence of Sweden to her alliance with England drew upon her the hostility of all her northern neighbours; and the conquest of Swedish Finland by Russia was the consequence.

The most important event which we have to notice subsequent to the treaty of Tilsit, is the active concurrence of the Emperor Alexander in the war between France and Austria, which was brought to so unfortunate a conclusion.

We shall not attempt to enter into any discussion of the expediency or policy of the Russian Emperor in thus becoming subservient, as it should seem, to the ambition of the very man he had so lately opposed with so much fortitude. The errors of this policy have been amply expiated; and a twelvemonth did not elapse before the general ruin and misery which rapidly spread throughout Russia, in consequence of the total want of commerce, obliged the Emperor Alexander to relax in a system which the intrigues of Bonaparte had induced him to adopt. This relaxation drew upon him the hostility of the ruler of the French nation, who immediately began to arrange his plans for the destruction of the Russian empire.

It was to no purpose that Alexander represented to him the actual pressure of public suffering throughout Russia; that she could no longer exist as a nation without commerce; and that he was willing to make great sacrifices to secure even a portion of trade to his subjects: that he was contented to lay a new duty of twenty-five per cent. on all colonial produce and goods of British manufacture, and would allow France half the revenue to sanction the measure. Bonaparte insultingly



replied to these proposals, that nothing short of the total exclusion of British shipping from the ports of Russia would satisfy him; and that any compromise on his part would be a total abandonment of the continental system.

As early as the spring of the year 1811, the cabinet of Russia perceived that war was inevitable. The time, however, was not yet arrived, when it was judged expedient to pursue that vigorous line of conduct which, perhaps, he ought to have sooner adopted. The situation of Russia with respect to Turkey was still unsettled: she had made the greatest exertions in a destructive contest with that power, and her finances were considerably embarrassed. It was also very uncertain what part Bernadotte, the Crown Prince of Sweden, might take in a contest between Russia and France; it being well known that every exertion had been made by Bonaparte to engage that prince to enter into his designs. No time, however, was lost in encouraging the manufacture of arms: 500,000 musquets, and 2000 pieces of ordnance, were rapidly finished, and ready for any disposable purpose; various fortifications were erected on the banks of the Dwina; and, upon the whole, the military preparations were much more formidable, and upon a larger scale, than those which preceded the wars of 1805 and 1807. The organization, too, of the forces was changed. The cavalry, which used to be attached to the different divisions of infantry, was separated from them. The infantry of the line consisted of twenty-eight divisions of six regiments each; and every regiment contained three battalions of 600 effective men; forming a total of 302,400 infantry. The cavalry were composed of seven divisions, of forty squadrons each; every squadron of 142 effective men, amounting in the whole to 39,760, besides 50,000 Cossacks; making together a force of 392,100 men. From this enumeration may be deducted nine divisions: two of them were to be employed against the Persians, five against the Turks, and two were to continue in Finland by way of precaution. There then remained 294,960 men, which Russia could, in the year 1811, have opposed to France, exclusively of the militia; for arming which latter force there were a sufficient number of military depots well-provided, and situated in convenient places for the distribution of arms and stores.

It will also be evident from the following document, which is the substance of an engagement afterwards entered into between the courts of St. Petersburg and Stockholm, signed at St. Petersburg, the 24th March 1812, so far as the same are referred to in a subsequent treaty between his Majesty the King of Great Britain, and the King of Sweden, signed at Stockholm, the 3d of March 1813, that, for some time before Bonaparte invaded Russia, the courts of St. Petersburg and Stockholm had, from the movements of the French armies threatening the Russian empire, engaged to make a diversion in Germany against France and her allies with a strong force of between 40 and 50,000 men: but, as this diversion could not be securely made whilst Norway could be regarded as the enemy of Sweden, Russia engaged, either by negotiation or military co-operation, to unite that kingdom to Sweden. The acquisition of Norway was to be considered as a preliminary operation to the diversion in Germany. An indemnity was to be offered to Denmark in Germany, if she would cede Norway; if she refused, she was to be considered as an enemy.

“The object of the Emperor of Russia and the King of Sweden, in forming an alliance, is stated to be for the purpose of securing reciprocally, their states and possessions, against the common enemy.

The downfall of Russia had been openly declared by Bonaparte to have been decreed by an unavoidable destiny; and he gave himself out as the being appointed to fulfil the high commission, which imposed on him the task of driving the Muscovites back to the deserts of Asia. His military fame, his good fortune, and the immense force he was about to bring together to execute his threatened vengeance, induced the unthinking part of mankind to imagine the probability of his success, and his abettors and the partizans of his system to speculate on the advantages they might derive from a division of the spoil; while the more wise and upright found reason to hope, that the madness of his ambition would tend to the ruin of the tyrant, and the deliverance of Europe from his iron sway. How perfectly has the result justified these hopes, which were founded on the principle,

that what is radically wrong must, sooner or later, be overthrown.

Bonaparte did not omit to use the influence he so unfortunately possessed over the Austrian government, to obtain a treaty of alliance; by which the latter engaged to furnish 30,000 men to act against Russia, on the condition of receiving, if attacked, an equal succour from France,

On the 22d of April, the Emperor of Russia quitted St. Peterburgh, took the command of his army, and moved his head quarters to Wilna. Early in May, the first corps, under Davoust, arrived on the Vistula. at Elbing and Marienburg: the second corps, under Oudinot, at Marienwerder; the third corps, under Ney, at Thorn; the fourth and sixth, under Beauharnois, at Plöck; the fifth corps, under Poniatowsky, assembled at Warsaw; the eighth corps, under Junot, on the right of Warsaw; the seventh corps, under Victor, at Pulawy; the ninth and eleventh, between the Elbe and the Oder, under the joint command of Marshals Augereau and Victor; and the tenth, the Prussian contingent, at Riga and Dinabourgh, under Macdonald; Murat had the command of the cavalry; Lefevre of the old, and Mortier of the new guards; altogether forming a force of upwards of 400,000 men.

Bonaparte was on the Vistula on the 6th of June, and availed himself of his immense force and imposing situation, to compel the King of Prussia to join in a treaty of alliance; and shortly after passed the borders of the Russian empire; upon which event the Emperor Alexander declared, "I will not sheath my sword so long as there is a single enemy within my imperial borders."

In pursuance of the system of retreat and protracted warfare, which had been determined upon by the Emperor Alexander, Wilna, his head-quarters, was evacuated, and its magazines destroyed. Bonaparte entered this place on the 28th June.

The Russian armies continued to fall back and concentrate themselves. Bonaparte was therefore compelled to alter his first dispositions, which harassed his ar-



mies by useless marches. The head-quarters were at length established at a fortified camp at Drissa, from whence the Emperor issued several animating general orders.

On the 23d of July, the advanced guard of the Russian army, commanded by Prince Bragation, reached Daschkova, where it was attacked by Marshals Davoust and Mortier, with five divisions of the French army. Notwithstanding the great numerical superiority of the enemy, the Russian troops repulsed them twice, and pushed them as far as the village of Nowossilka: here the battle was continued, and lasted from nine in the morning until six in the evening. The loss of the French exceeded five thousand men; that of the Russians amounted to nearly three thousand.

The Emperor Alexander was now at Polotzk, ordering the formation of battalions of reserve in the interior of the empire, and calling upon the Russians to rise *en masse*, for the defence of their country.

Prince Bragation, having continued his march in the direction of Smolenzk, where he joined the grand army, the French obtained possession of Mohiloff. The vicinity of Polotzk was also, about this time, the scene of severe contest. Marshal Oudinot having crossed the Duna, with a view, it is supposed, of coming upon Riga, was attacked by General Wittenschein, on the 17th of August, and a most murderous battle ensued. In point of numbers, the Russians were greatly inferior; yet the fortune of the day was theirs. They pursued the enemy even to the town, and continued the battle in the streets, until the darkness of the night put an end to it. In this engagement, Oudinot received a severe wound in his shoulder; and the command of his army was entrusted to Gouvion de St. Cyr. The loss of the enemy was not less than 7000 killed and wounded, and 2600 prisoners; that of the Russians comparatively trifling.

Notwithstanding these, and many other smaller instances of success, attending the Russian armies whenever a stand was made, still the system of protracted warfare was judged to be the most conducive to the ul-

timatè destruction of the invaders, and the proclamation of the Emperor Alexander, published in general orders, by the commander-in-chief, General Benningsen, displays the steady policy of Russia to continue retiring, and even to give up Moscow, rather than hazard a general engagement, except upon very favourable terms.

On the 17th of August, at one in the afternoon, the enemy attacked the troops of the first Russian army, which were drawn up on the road from Krasnoy, and other points round Smolenzk, for the purpose of covering the march of the second army to Dorogabouche. After an engagement which continued without intermission for three hours, the French were repulsed at every point. They then brought a strong column of their forces, and an uncommonly numerous artillery, with which they attacked the city in every direction; but all their efforts and endeavours were in vain, although they drove back the Russian advance-troops even to the ruins of the walls of Smolenzk, and appeared determined to storm the city. The Russians lost 4000 killed and wounded; the French suffered in a much greater proportion.

In the night a dreadful conflagration broke out in the town; and, at midnight, it was abandoned by the Russians, who retired across the river. It was occupied on the 18th by the invaders, who at length succeeded in extinguishing the fire.

On the 19th, the French, crossing the Dnieper, made an attack on the Russian rear-guard, the last column of which retreated to the second army, which was posted on the heights of Valentina. An action was brought on to force this position, in which a considerable number of troops was engaged on each side; it terminated in the unmolested retreat of the Russians, according to their plan.

At the commencement of the invasion of Russia, it appeared to have been the design of the French Emperor to make a push at once for Petersburg, probably supposing that the imminent danger or capture of this metropolis would terminate the war. But the plan pursued by the Russian commanders, to draw the prin-

principal force of their antagonist towards the Dnieper, necessarily changed that of the invader, whose object now became the possession of the ancient capital of the empire, Moscow, to which Smolenzk is in the direct road, and at a less distance from it than from Wilna. It was therefore particularly necessary, for the further progress of the invading army, that it should occupy the last-mentioned city.

On the 29th General Caulincourt entered Viasma, a considerable town on the Moscow road; and the Russians had taken a strong position at the village of Moskwa, between Ghijat and Mojaïsk.

The Emperor Alexander having at this period, concluded a peace with Turkey, he was induced to appoint General Barclay de Tolly to the management of the war department, and General Kutusoff to be commander-in-chief of all his armies.

At day-break, on the 7th of September, the French made an attack on the whole Russian position: and the battle lasted from seven o'clock in the morning until ten at night, with an unexampled obstinancy. The French, commanded by Bonaparte in person, were repulsed at all points, and compelled to retire in the beginning of the night, leaving the Russians masters of the field of battle. In this sanguinary combat, the Prince of Bragation, commander-in-chief of the second army, received a severe wound, which shattered to pieces his left leg. He was afterwards removed to Moscow: and, at the approach of the enemy, the Governor Rastapchin had him conveyed with the sick and wounded from that city, when he died on the road. He was an amiable and a meritorious officer.

The loss of the enemy in this battle amounted, in killed, wounded, and prisoners, to 50,000 men. Marshal Davoust was wounded; the General of Brigade, Bonami, made prisoner; and Generals Caulincourt and Montbrun killed. That of the Russians, to 32,000: besides the Prince Bragation, the Major-General Count Woronzoff, Lieutenant General Tutchkoff, Prince Garchikof, and Konovintzen, the Major-Generals



Backmetioff, Rajessky, and Kretoff, were among the wounded.

The distinguished veteran Prince Kutusoff was now appointed Field-Marshal, with a grant of 100,000 roubles. His Imperial Majesty also ordered five roubles to be given to each soldier who had a share in this memorable battle.

The Russian general found it necessary to retire a short distance on the Moscow road, and proposed to make a stand within two or three wersts of Moscow; the position chosen, however, was judged unfavourable. He therefore continued his retreat to a strong position near Podolsk and Wakadesk, twenty miles beyond Moscow, leaving the enemy to enter the city, which was done by his advanced guard on the 14th of October.

Previous to the entrance of the enemy, all the valuables and property were removed from the city; the magazines, stores, &c. set fire to; and that the latter object might be successfully accomplished, every fire-engine was removed. The Governor Rastapchin had concerted these measures with the Russian commander-in-chief, and persuaded forty thousand of the inhabitants to follow him to the army. The others fled in all directions, and few remained to witness the entry of the French, who committed the greatest barbarities.

Very shortly after the entry of the French, a general conflagration spread through the city, a scene of horror commenced, difficult to conceive and impossible to describe. There are various opinions with respect to the origin of the fire. It has been asserted by those assuming authority for their information, that the Governor Rastapchin, from patriotic motives, gave orders to set the city on fire, to prevent the enemy finding a shelter in it during the winter, and being able to obtain terms from the Emperor for its deliverance. Prince Kutusoff, in his conversation with Lauriston, satisfactorily repelled the charge.

Two residences in Moscow belonging to Rastapchin, were destroyed; yet this true patriot, on the approach



of the enemy, set fire with his own hands to his country-seat at Voronovo, to prevent their gaining possession of it. This was a most superb mansion, on which its possessor had laid out immense sums of money. The following letter was written, and left by him on the occasion:—

“I have for eight years established this country-house, and I have lived happily in it, in the bosom of my family. The inhabitants of the estate, to the number of 1720, quit it at your approach; and I set fire to my house, that it may not be polluted by your presence. Frenchmen, I have abandoned to you my two Moscow houses, with furniture, worth half a million of roubles; here you will only find ashes.

“COUNT FEDOR RASTAPCHIN.”

The Emperor Alexander was not intimidated by the fall of Moscow; on the contrary, it produced in him a more fixed determination to persevere, and refuse every overture to negotiate, either direct or indirect. In the animating proclamation which he issued on the occasion, he observes, “When the oppressed could look to us for an example and a stimulus, shall we shrink from the high commission? No; we bow before the hand that anoints us to be the leaders of the nations in the cause of freedom and virtue.”

On the 18th October, Prince Kutusoff defeated the French under Murat, who with 45 000 men was advancing towards the south; and, on the following day, Bonaparte quitted Moscow, which on the 22d was re-entered by the Russians. On the expulsion of the enemy, the Emperor Alexander issued the following proclamation:—

“Russians! at length the enemy of our country, the foe of its independence and freedom, has experienced a portion of that terrible vengeance which his ambitious and unprincipled aggression had aroused. From the period of his march from Wilna, his armies, great in number, assured in valour and discipline, and elated at the remembrance of victories gained in other regions, threatened no less than the entire subjugation of the

Russians. The system which we had thought fit to adopt strengthened that confidence. The sanguinary battles fought on his route, and which gave him temporary possession of Smolenzk, flattered him with all the illusions of victory. He reached Moscow, and he believed himself invincible and invulnerable. He now exulted in the idea of reaping the fruit of his toils; of obtaining for his soldiers comfortable winter-quarters; and of sending out from thence, next spring, fresh forces to ravage and burn our cities, make captives of our countrymen, overthrow our laws and holy religion, and subject every thing to his lawless will. Vain presumptuous hope! Insolent, degrading menace! A population of forty millions, attached to their sovereign and country, and devoted to their religion and laws, the least brave man of whom is superior to his unwilling confederates and victims, cannot be conquered by a heterogeneous force, which he could muster, even of treble its late amount.

“Scarcely had he reached Moscow, and attempted to repose amidst its burning ruins, when he found himself encircled by the bayonets of the Russian troops. He then, too late, discovered, that the possession of Moscow was not the conquest of the empire; that his temerity had led him into a snare, and that he must choose between retreat or annihilation: he preferred the former, and behold the consequences.

“Russians! the Almighty has heard our wishes, and crowned your efforts with success. Every where the enemy is in motion; for disorderly movements betrayed his apprehensions: gladly would he compound for safety; but policy and justice alike demand the terrible infliction. The history of his daring must not be told without the terrible catastrophe by which it was attended. An hundred thousand men sacrificed to his frantic presumption, attest your valour and devotion to your country, and must deter him from a repetition of his impracticable design. Much, however, yet remains to be done, and that is in your power. Let the line of his retreat be rendered memorable by your honest indignation; destroy every thing which can be of service to him, and our commanders have orders to remunerate you; render your bridges, your roads, impassable; in fine,

adopt and execute the suggestions of a brave, wise, and patriotic heart, and shew yourselves deserving the thanks of your country and your sovereign.

“Should the remains of the enemy’s force escape to our imperials frontiers, and attempt to winter there, they must prepare to encounter all the rigours of the clime and season, and the valorous attacks of our troops. Thus, harassed, exhausted, and defeated, he shall for ever be prevented from renewing his presumptuous attempt.”

The Russian people so well performed the directions of their magnanimous Emperor, that it was not only on the troops that the Prince Kutusoff had to rely for the destruction of the enemy, who, in his retreat, was so incessantly impeded by their attacks, that it was not until the 9th of November Bonaparte was able to reach Smolenzk.

Every day was signalized by some success. On the 3d of November the French were defeated at Viasma, by General Miloradovitch, supported by Platoff, with the loss of 6000 killed and wounded, and 2000 prisoners. On the 4th, the enemy were pursued beyond Viasma by the Cossacks, who brought in 1000 prisoners.

On the 7th, 8th, and 9th of November, Beauharnois, who commanded the fourth corps of the army, was attacked and defeated, with a total loss of all their artillery and ammunition, 3000 prisoners, and a still more considerable number in killed and wounded.

The losses the French were now daily sustaining, and the distress they were suffering in their retreat, drove them so completely to despair, that numbers surrendered themselves without resistance; others, incapable of further exertion, laid down on the road side, and perished with cold, hunger, and fatigue

As we shall have hereafter occasion to describe many of the particular actions in which the future subjects of our Memoirs were principally engaged in this wonderful campaign, we shall at present confine ourselves to the



reports and proclamations of the commander-in-chief, Prince Kutusoff, to illustrate its progress.

In the parole orders of the 10th November, issued by the Prince to his army, is the following admirable paragraph:—

“After these extraordinarily great successes, which we daily and every where are gaining over the enemy, nothing more remains for us to do than to pursue him rapidly; and then, perhaps, the Russian land, which he thought to subjugate, may be strewed with his bones. Let us therefore pursue him, without giving him any rest. The winter, accompanied with frost and snow, is approaching; but what have you hardy children to fear from it? Your breasts of steel fear neither the severity of the weather, nor the malice of the enemy: they are the safe walls of your native country, against which all attempts must fail. You are likewise adequate to the support of any temporary wants, in case that such should take place. Good soldiers prove themselves such by fortitude and patience, of which the veterans set examples to the younger soldiers. May every one keep Suwarroff in remembrance: he taught how to bear hunger and frost, when a victory, or the glory of the Russian nation was in view. Let us go on: God is with us. Before us is the beaten enemy—and may peace and happiness be behind us!”

On the 20th November, Bonaparte intended to proceed from Orcha to Minsk, where he hoped to arrive before the Russians. He, however, was continually harassed on his right flank by Count Kutusoff; and, in the course of a week, lost nearly 6000 prisoners, and about the same number killed, by the enemy or the severity of the weather.

Upon reaching the Berezina his army was reduced to 60,000 men. He caused a bridge to be thrown over the river at Keubin, and crossed immediately. The horrors of this passage will ever be remembered by the French army. At its commencement numbers were drowned; but, on the appearance of the Russian army, the confusion was beyond all description. The whole army pressed forward, without the least order: every thing

was lost sight of but the wish to escape from the Russian army, whose batteries at length began to fire from the bridge and banks of the river, and stopped the further progress of the enemy. At a moderate computation, the French lost, in the passage of the Berezina, upwards of 20,000 men, killed, wounded, drowned, and prisoners.

From the period of passing the Berezina to their arrival at Wilna on the 9th December, the French were incessantly pursued and attacked by Admiral Tchichagoff's force; and 150 pieces of cannon, upwards of 700 boxes of cartridges, and an immense number of baggage-waggons, were taken by the Russians. Two standards, some generals, and several thousand prisoners, were also taken. The enemy's rear-guard was so much cut to pieces, that his flight was continued in the utmost disorder, and without any defence. His men dropped down with faintness, and surrendered themselves in despair. The loss of the French amounted to 30,000 men; and the roads were covered with their killed and wounded, and men dying with cold.

On the 22d of December the Emperor Alexander arrived at Wilna, which, from its central situation, was particularly well adapted for his Imperial Majesty to direct the movements of the different armies, as circumstances might require.

The following is a statement of the captures made by the Russians, up to the 26th of December:—Up to the 20th of December, were taken, 33 generals, 900 officers, 143,000 non-commissioned officers and soldiers, 746 pieces of cannon; from the 20th to the 25th of December, one general, 156 officers, 9754 non-commissioned officers and soldiers, 168 pieces of cannon. Besides, there were taken at Wilna, 7 generals, 242 officers, 14,756 non-commissioned officers and soldiers, 217 pieces of cannon.—TOTAL, 41 generals, 1298 officers, 167,510 non-commissioned officers and soldiers, 1131 pieces of cannon.

The Emperor Alexander issued the following admirable proclamation on the 6th of January, at Wilna. The noble sentiments it contains cannot fail at all times to

inspire an universal interest in the great character from whom they emanated.

“God and all the world are witnesses with what objects their enemy entered our dear country. Nothing could avert his obstinate and malevolent intentions. Proudly calculating on his own force, and on those which he had embodied against us from all the European powers, and hurried on by desire of conquest and thirst for blood, he hastened to penetrate even into the bosom of our great empire, to spread amongst us the horrors and all the misery of a war of devastation, and to come upon us by surprise, but for which he had long been preparing. Having foreseen, by former proofs of his unmeasured ambition and the violence of his proceedings, what bitter sufferings he was about to inflict upon us, and seeing him already pass our frontiers with a fury which nothing could arrest, we have been compelled, though with a sorrowful and wounded heart, in invoking the aid of God, to draw the sword, and to promise to our empire, that we would not return it to the scabbard so long as a single enemy remained in arms in our territory. We fixed firmly in our hearts this determination, relying on the valour of the people whom God had confided to us; and we have not been deceived. What proofs of courage, of bravery, of piety, of patience, and of fortitude, has not Russia shewn? The enemy, who penetrated into her bosom with all his characteristic ferocity and rage, has not been able to draw from her a single sigh by the severe wounds he has inflicted.

“It would seem, that with the blood which flowed in Russia, her spirit of bravery increased; that the burning villages animated her patriotism; and the destruction and profanation of the temples of God strengthened her faith, and nourished in her the sentiment of implacable revenge. The army, the nobility, the gentry, the clergy, the merchants, the people, in a word, all classes, all estates of the empire, breathed the same spirit—a spirit of courage and of piety, a love equally ardent for their God and for their country. This unanimity, this universal zeal, have produced effects hardly credible, such as have scarcely existed in any age. Let us contemplate the enormous force collected from twenty kingdoms and nations, united under the same standard, by an ambitious



and atrocious enemy, flushed with success, which entered our country; half a million of soldiers, infantry and cavalry, accompanied by fifteen hundred pieces of cannon. With force so powerful, he pierces into the heart of Russia, extends himself, and begins to spread fire and devastation. But six months have scarcely elapsed since he passed our frontiers, and what has become of him? Let us here cite the words of the holy Psalmist—

“I myself have seen the ungodly in great power, and flourishing like a green bay tree.

“I went by, and, lo! he was gone: I sought him, but his place could no where be found.”

“*Psalm xxxvii. 36, 37.*

“This sublime sentence is accomplished in all its force on our arrogant and impious enemy. Where are his armies, like a mass of black clouds which the wind has drawn together? They are dispersed as rain. A great part, wetting the earth with their blood, cover the fields of the governments of Moscow, Kalouga, Sino-lenzk, White Russia, and Lithuania. Another part, equally great, has been taken in the frequent battles, with many generals and commanders. In fine, after numerous bloody combats, in the end, whole regiments, imploring the magnanimity of their conquerors, have laid down their arms before them. The rest, composing a number equally great, pursued in their precipitate flight by our victorious troops, overtaken by cold and hunger, have strewed the road from Moscow to the frontiers of Russia with carcasses, cannons, waggons, and baggage. So that, of those numerous forces, a very inconsiderable part of the soldiers, exhausted and without arms, can, with difficulty, and almost lifeless, return to their country, to serve as a terrible example to their countrymen of the dreadful sufferings which must overtake those rash men, who dare to carry their hostile designs into the bosom of powerful Russia.

His Imperial Majesty issued many other regulations and decrees, during the sixteen or seventeen days he remained at Wilna, for the restoration of order in vari-



ous provinces which had suffered, and for prevention of disease from the infection of prisoners, and the number of dead bodies and quantity of carrion still above ground. In the neighbourhood of Wilna, sixteen thousand corpses were piled up in heaps, for the purpose of being consumed by fire, when sufficient wood could be procured; numbers were uncollected in the roads and villages; and the mortality in the hospitals at Wilna was for a time very great. The Emperor repeatedly visited all the hospitals.

From Wilna the pursuit was carried on, in separate routes, upon Kowna, by General Witgenstein and the distinguished Hetman Platoff; but the former having taken and destroyed many of the enemy in his line of march, he proceeded to the Niemen and to Younbourg.

In conformity to directions issued by the Russian government for the complete destruction of the dead bodies of men and horses belonging to the enemy, which fell in battle or perished from the cold, and had not been committed to the earth, the following reports were transmitted by the governors of the different provinces:—

In the government of Minsk, up to the end of January, 18,797 dead bodies of men, and 2746 of horses, had been burnt; and there still remained to be burnt, of the former 30,106, and of the latter 27,316, the greater part of which were found on the banks of the Berezina. In the government of Moscow, up to the 15th of February, 49,754 dead bodies of men, and 27,849 of horses, had been burnt, besides a number of others that were buried. In the government of Smolenzk, up to the 2d of March, 71,733 dead bodies of men, and 51,430 of horses, had been committed to the flames. In the government of Wilna, up to the 5th of March, 72,202 dead bodies of men, and 9407 of horses, had been put under ground. In the government of Kalouga, up to the 11th of March, 1017 human corpses, and 4384 dead horses, had been burnt. The sum of the whole was 213,516 human corpses, and 95,816 dead horses, exclusive of many others, either burned or buried, of which no account was taken. The strictest measures have been taken for destroying, before the approach of spring, the dead bodies that may be found in rivers and woods.—*April 20, 1813.*

It may not be uninteresting to our readers to have the following short account of the destroyed city.

“The circumference of Moscow, taken without the ramparts, is somewhat more than twenty-six miles. The city is distributed into five divisions; the Kremlin, Khitaigorod, Bielgorod, Semlaingorod, and Sloboda. The first-named division, the Kremlin, is an assemblage of wonders; it is surrounded by walls, towers, and ramparts, on all sides, and is filled with domes and steeples: the edifices within its bounds are all constructed with such strange irregularity, that the appearance differs in every direction; but the view of the city from its heights much surpasses any other, both for splendour and singularity, and that from the tower of St. Ivan surpasses all. The Kremlin is entered through an arched portal, painted red, and called the Holy Gate: and no person, of any rank or description, may be permitted to pass this entrance unless uncovered; so much of superstitious reverence is paid to it, on account of a favourite Russian saint whose picture is suspended there, and who, tradition affirms, did, like another Pan, strike terror into an invading army of Poles, who had possession of the city, and were on the point of forcing this portal. The great bell of Moscow, the largest in the world, lies in a deep pit in the midst of the Kremlin. It was founded by order of the Empress Ann, as an act of piety, and was never suspended. Dr. Clarke describes it very accurately, and agrees nearly with the account given by Jonas Hanway of its dimensions. The ancient palace of the Czars is within these ramparts, remarkable for being the birthplace of Peter the Great; the scene of the murders committed by the Strelitzes, in the well-known conspiracy during the minority of Peter; the butchery of John Nariskin; and the fall of Demetrius. There is also here a gun of immense calibre, supposed to be cast in 1604. The Russians are extremely jealous of strangers examining this prodigious piece of artillery; the dimensions cannot, therefore, be given with any exactness; it is ascertained, however, that its lip is ten inches thick, and it will admit a man of middle stature, sitting upright within its mouth. The treasury and regalia are here, and also the crowns of conquered provinces, *viz.* Casan, Siberia, Astracan, and the Crimea. In the palace are shewn several articles, valuable only from their antiquity.

and some trifling specimens in natural curiosity; but what most attracts the wonder and attention of strangers, is the famous model of the Kremlin, planned under the auspices of Catherine the Second, which would have been, if completed, the miracle of the universe. Some accident happening to retard the erection, determined that magnificent princess to relinquish the undertaking. Had the work been completed, it would have exceeded in costliness, magnificence, and beauty, the temple of Solomon, the propylæum of Amasis, the villa of Adrian, or the forum of Trajan. There is nothing in Europe like the various exhibitions presented to the eye in this extraordinary quarter of Moscow—Indian, Chinese, Gothic, Tartarian, richness, elegance, barbarism, decay! in short, it is an assemblage of wonders, and perhaps, forms the most novel and interesting *coup d'œil* in the universe. The patriarch's palace, the cathedral with seven towers, two convents, several churches, and the arsenal, are within the Kremlin.

“The Khitaigorod, or second division, is much larger than the Kremlin, containing the university, the printing-house, and many other public edifices; in this quarter are the shops of the tradesmen. There is a street in this division in which the houses are built adjoining each other, and the only one in Moscow of this description: the houses are, in general, white-washed, or stuccoed.

“The Bielgorod, or White Town, encircles the two preceding divisions, and takes its name from a white wall, by which it was once surrounded. There is nothing worthy of remark in this portion of Moscow.

“The Semlainorogod environs all the other three divisions, and is encompassed by a circular rampart of earth. The last two divisions are composed of a strange assemblage of contrasted objects, which altogether form a grotesque appearance—churches, palaces, convents, wooden houses, and wretched hovels.

“The Sloboda, or suburbs, from a vast circle round the whole of the divisions already described, and are invested by a ditch and low rampart. The Sloboda contains, besides buildings of every description, delightful gardens, rich pastures, orchards abounding with fruit,



and waving corn fields. These luxuriant lands are watered by several small and beautiful lakes, which give rise to the Negaua river; the Moskwa, from which this curious city takes its name, flows through it in a winding channel, navigable only in spring, except for small boats or rafts.

“The streets of Moscow are, in general, long and wide; some or them are paved, but the greater number formed by laying the trunks of trees across, and others are boarded like the floor of a room. There are 1500 places of worship in Moscow, including chapels; the greater part of which are of wood, painted red, with domes of copper or tin, gilt or painted green: they are all richly ornamented within, and the relics, pictures, and statutes of saints and martyrs, are decorated with gold, silver, and diamonds. The cathedral of St. Michael contains the bodies of several of the sovereigns of Russia; and in that of the Assumption of the Virgin, the ceremony of coronation is performed. There is an hospital for foundlings, which will maintain 3000, founded by Catherine the Second. The Palace of Petroffsky, the modern royal residence of Moscow, is situated two miles from the city; it bears, at first view, a magnificent appearance, but, on a near approach, is found deficient in that lightness and elegance, without which no architectural beauties can be perfect. It is the most populous city in the vast empire of the Autocrat, containing 250,000 inhabitants; and is the centre of the inland commerce of Europe and Asia.”

The Emperor left Wilna in the night of the 7th of January, to join the division of the army which comprised the guards; and the head-quarters of the whole army were at Merez on the 10th. On the 13th the Emperor crossed the Niemen, amidst the acclamations of his brave troops, and continued to march with them to Lique, where his head-quarters were established on the 19th.

The Russian army, on the 26th, was at Wittenburg, an advance of nearly 136 miles; and a division under Count Woronzoff captured large magazines at Bromberg, which had been collected there by the enemy.

On the 6th of February the Emperor arrived at Potztk, with 21,000 troops. He was received with every demonstration of joy.

On the 8th of February General Miloradovitch took possession of the city of Warsaw; and the citizens immediately called upon their brethren fighting under the banners of the enemy, to return to their homes.

The Austrians were now permitted, by the clemency of the Emperor, to conclude an unlimited truce, in virtue of which they withdrew into Galicia; and the Saxons retired with them into their own country.

The liberal sentiments of the Emperor towards the Prussian monarchy and nation had already insured their attachment. General D'Yorke had concluded a convention, on the 30th of December, by which 15,000 troops under his command were to remain neutral. The Prussians, in every direction, received the Russian army as friends, and provided them voluntarily with provisions of every kind.

On the 15th of February the King of Prussia offered himself as a mediator between the belligerents, and proposed a truce, on terms exceedingly favourable to the beaten and discomfited enemy; they were, however, rejected by Bonaparte. The Prussian patriots, therefore, now crowded around their sovereign at Breslaw, and earnestly insisted on an alliance, offensive and defensive, with Russia, which, on the 22d of February, was mutually agreed upon by the Emperor of Russia and King of Prussia, and a combined plan of military operations arranged.

The fortunate alliance now perfected between Russia and Prussia, gave almost a new character to the war. It had hitherto been carried on by the Russians in defence of their country, against its barbarous invaders; it was now to be pursued for the deliverance of Europe from his tyranny.

On the 3d of March the Russian troops had entered Berlin, and were received by an immense concourse of people with kindness and hospitality.

During the month of April the greatest exertions were made by Bonaparte to repair the losses he had suffered, and to bring the whole force of France into action, to support that superiority over the continent which now began to be shaken to its foundation; and his success was so great, that, by the latter end of the month, he had nearly 600,000 men ready for the ensuing campaign on the Elbe and the Rhine.

The Russian army, about this time, experienced a severe loss in the death of its brave commander-in-chief, Prince Kutusoff Smolenzk, who was left ill on the march at Buntzlau, where he died.

General Witgenstein succeeded to the chief command of the army, and, in a few days afterwards gained, on the 2d of May, the battle of Gross-Gorschen, which gave a severe check to Bonaparte.

It not being within the limits of this Work, to give a regular detail of the events of the northern campaigns, we have inserted particular accounts of those only in which the illustrious subject of our Memoir was actively engaged, or by which his character might be more perfectly developed. We shall therefore briefly state, that the severity of the winter campaign, the rapidity of their marches, and the unexampled success that attended their exertions, occasioned, first, an actual diminution of force, to the amount of nearly 100,000 men, and, next, an extension of their armies, over the immense tract of country they had overrun, which had the same effect of rendering their force now brought into action inadequate to oppose the numerical superiority of the enemy. The consequence was, that several severe battles were fought, and won by the bravery of the allied troops, yet they were still obliged to fall back upon their reinforcements. The last of these battles, previous to the armistice now proposed, were fought on the 19th. 20th, 21st and 22d of May, 1813.

An armistice was concluded on the 8th of June at midnight, to last to the 20th of July inclusive; it was afterwards extended to the 10th of August; and hostilities were not to recommence without giving six days notice.



During the cessation of hostilities, every effort was made by the allies to procure the peace of Europe by negotiation; and terms still advantageous to Bonaparte might have been obtained by him. But it appeared, that he desired the armistice for the purpose only of training the force he had been able to accumulate. The Emperor of Austria, who, until this moment, had persuaded himself that his son-in-law might pay some deference to his paternal councils, became now undeceived and found himself compelled to take up arms in defence of himself and Europe, against the aggressions of the blood-thirsty Corsican.

Upon the expiration of the armistice, the Emperor of Russia issued a proclamation, declaring, that "on the 16th of August, including the notification of six days stipulating for the resumption of hostilities, the armistice finished. This space of two months and twelve days having left little hopes of the conclusion of a just and honourable peace, the bloody contest, on which definitively depends the fate of Europe, is about to commence."

The first operations of the allies, who were now strengthened by the accession of the Crown Prince of Sweden, with 30,000 men, advancing from the north of Germany towards the scene of action, were directed against Dresden, where the head-quarters of the French were fixed. Their main army, under Napoleon himself, was then in Silesia; but he hastened precipitately to save the Saxon capital. The battle fought under the walls of that city terminated in his favour, and frustrated the plan of the allies.

The most unfortunate event that occurred at this moment, was the death of the celebrated General Moreau, who had been banished by Bonaparte from France. He had lately returned from America, to assist, by his talents, the councils of the allies. The following may be considered as the last act of this great man's life. It is the letter he wrote, after the fatal accident, to his lady.

"MY DEAR LOVE—At the battle of Dresden, three days ago, I had my two legs carried off by a cannon-ball. That scoundrel Bonaparte is always fortunate.



The amputation was performed as well as possible. Though the army has made a retrograde movement, it is not at all the consequence of defeat, but from a want of *emsemble*, and in order to get nearer to General Blucher.

“Excuse my scrawl. I love and embrace you with all my heart. Rapatel will finish.

“V. M.”

He died on the 2d of September.

Although the battle of Dresden terminated to the disadvantage of the allies, their primary object was attained. Napoleon's force was divided into three great armies. The engagements of Janer, Gross-beren, and Dennivitz, proved disastrous to the French generals; and Lusatia, and the right bank of the Elbe, were soon in the hands of the allies. Oudinot, Ney, Regnier, Bertrand, and Vandamme, were, in succession, so totally defeated, that it was not possible for the French reporters to conceal their disasters. The allies now acted every where offensively. Dresden became to him, in some respects, what Wilna was in 1812. Leipzig, an open place, was now of far greater importance to him than Minsk was then. The communications, however, between Dresden and Leipzig were interrupted, and his supplies became more and more precarious; and a large garrison, which it was necessary to reinforce with strong detachments from the main army, was locked up in Leipzig.

The perseverance of the allies, and the skill and bravery of their troops, under the commands of Prince Schwartzenberg and General Blucher, had so effectually opposed every attempt of the enemy to penetrate into Bohemia, or to Berlin, that it became evident, that to continue longer in Dresden would involve his utter ruin. Indeed his retreat was now too late determined upon. He was obliged to commence it in the midst of an immense quadrangle, which the allies formed about him. He could not, however, yet determine to give up Dresden, but left there a considerable army, which had the effect of weakening himself, to no purpose whatever in case he should lose a battle. At length, near Leipzig, he was forced into the arduous conflict.

Bonaparte left Dresden on the 7th October, taking

with him the King of Saxony and court. On the 8th, the Bavarians joined the allies, signing a treaty with Austria, by which they were now to act offensively against the French.

On the 11th October, the combined Swedish and Prussian armies crossed the river Saale, in order to get into the rear of Bonaparte; and General Blucher effected a most extraordinary march from his positions before Dresden, and was enabled to cross the Elbe much lower down, and thereby unite in the movements of the Crown Prince.

On the 16th, the allies attacked the enemy at all points. The 17th was passed in reconnoitering on both sides. On the 18th, dreadful battles were fought on the north and south sides of Leipzig. During the engagement, the Saxon troops went over to the banners of the allies. The loss of the enemy on this day was computed at 40,000 men. On the 19th, Leipzig was taken, with the King of Saxony and his court, 25,000 wounded, the artillery, ammunition, &c. The whole supposed to diminish Bonaparte's force not less than 80,000 men.

This was the eighth general action, seven of them commanded by the ruler of France, in which the Emperor Alexander commanded in the field at the head of his army: as usual, unmindful of personal danger, he approached every column, animating the officers and men by his presence and example, and, by a few energetic words, touching the chords which produce the strongest effects in the minds of Russian soldiers, confidence in the Supreme Being, resignation to his will, and attachment to their sovereign."

From a communication made by Count Metternich, it appears, that the results of the great battles of the 16th, 18th, and 19th, surpass all conception. The number of prisoners already taken is more than forty thousand: every hour adds materially to the amount. On the 20th, the corps which advanced in pursuit of the enemy, took *one hundred and twenty* pieces of artillery. The whole number of cannon amounts to *three hundred*, and *more than one thousand caissons* have fallen into the allies. The booty taken in this city is immense. The

suburbs of the town, and the principal gates are blocked up with carriages, baggage-waggons, and equipages of every description.

It is impossible to form a notion of the disorder which reigned among the enemy during the flight. Bonaparte quitted the town with considerable difficulty, as all the principal streets were completely impassable from the disorderly mass of fugitives.

Several thousand bodies have been taken from the river. The streets and high roads are heaped with dead bodies, and with wounded, whom it had been found impossible to remove. Twenty-seven generals, at the date of the dispatches, had already been taken.

The entrance of the allies into Leipzig is thus described by an eye-witness:—

As the French commander-in-chief had so precipitately quitted the city, we could no longer doubt the proximity of the enemy to our walls. The fire of the artillery and musquetry in the place, which gradually approaching nearer, was a much more convincing proof of this than we desired. The men already began to cut away the traces, in order to save the horses. The bustle among the soldiers augmented. A weak rear-guard had taken post in Reichel's garden, to keep the allies in check in case they should penetrate into the high road. We thought them still at a considerable distance, when a confused cry suddenly proclaimed that the Russians had stormed the outer Peter's gate, and were coming round from the Rossplatz. The French were evidently alarmed. The Russian jagers came upon them all at once, at full speed, with tremendous huzzas, and fixed bayonets; and discharged their pieces singly, without stopping. I now thought it advisable to quit my dangerous post, and hasten home with all possible expedition. I was informed, by the way, that the Prussians had that moment stormed the Grimma gate, and would be in the city in a few minutes. On all sides was heard the firing of small arms, intermixed at times with the reports of the artillery already playing upon the waggon train in the suburbs. Musquet-balls passing over the city wall likewise whizzed through the streets; and when



I ventured to put my head out of the window, I observed with horror, not far from my house, two Prussian jagers pursuing and firing at some Frenchmen who were running away. Behind them I heard the Storm March, and huzzas and shouts of '*Long live Frederick-William!*' from thousands of voices. A company of Baden jagers was charged with the defence of the inner Peter's-gate. These troops immediately abandoned their post, and ran as fast as their legs would carry them to the market-place, where they halted, and, like the Saxon grenadier guards, fired not a single shot.

"It was half-past one o'clock when the allies penetrated into the city. The artillery had been but little used on this occasion, and in the interior of the place not at all. Had not the allies shewn so much tenderness for the town, they might have spared the sacrifice of some hundreds of their brave soldiers: they employed infantry in the assault, that the city might not be utterly destroyed."

On the 29th it was officially reported, that the army of the Emperor Napoleon retired with such precipitation, that the advanced guards of the allied armies could scarcely reach it. The route of Gotha, Eisenach, and Vach, by which the enemy retired, exhibited traces of the most complete dissolution of his army. The number of dead bodies on the route increased from day to day. Thousands of soldiers, exhausted by hunger and fatigue, fell behind: and the greater part died, before they could be carried to an hospital. All the woods, for an extent of many miles on both sides of the route, were filled with fugitives, and sick and abandoned soldiers. Every where the enemy left cannon and carriages; he buried his artillery, or threw it into the rivers. According to the unanimous declaration of the brave warriors who made the last campaign in Russia, the road by which the enemy retired presented the same aspect as that from Moscow to Berizina.

On the 25th October Napoleon arrived at Erfurt, from whence he continued his retreat towards France by way of Frankfort on the Maine.

On the 31st October, the Emperor Alexander's head-



quarters were at Melrichstadt; on the 1st November at Micherstadt, and at Heldersheim on the 2d. The grand army continued the march of its columns on Frankfort; but Napoleon escaped from the Cossacks and his other pursuers, and carried the remains of his guards and some other corps to the left bank of the Rhine.

The Austrian forces Dec. 22d. crossed the Rhine, at Schaffhausen, Basle, and intermediate places, proceeding on their march towards the frontiers of France; other armies, at the same time, passed the Rhine at Dusseldorff and Coblentz: their whole force amounting at least to 300,000 men; the route which they took, was through Franche Compté and Lorraine, the most vulnerable part of France. The Emperor Alexander, with the last of his reserves, crossed the Rhine at Basle on the 13th of January, the anniversary of his crossing the Niemen (the extreme boundary of his empire) in pursuit of the French who had presumed to invade him. On this occasion, all means were taken to impress on the minds of the Russians, that the two events were interwoven together by the hands of Providence: the formal passage of the sacred river was not effected by the Czar until the auspicious day; an appeal to the God of Hosts preceded the undertaking. Heaven itself seemed thus to the Russians to have opened the way to national revenge; and the same enthusiasm by which their country was saved, continued to excite their bravery in the cause of Europe at 1500 miles from their native land.

It was already easy to discover, that the power of Napoleon had been shook to its foundation; and that the desire of peace, and the despair of any successful stand against the force the allies were now pouring into their country, disposed even the French themselves to view their successful progress with satisfaction.

The magnanimity and moderation of Alexander and his allies, which sought only the deliverance of Europe, and its security for the future, proposed no terms to the conquered beyond the attainment of these objects. But Peace was inconsistent with the ambitious projects of Bonaparte, and he could not willingly relinquish the hope of regaining the height from which he had fallen.

The allies were, therefore, compelled to pursue the contest; at the same time declaring, in the face of all Europe, the justice of their own cause, the moderation of their own views, and the unaccountable pretensions of Napoleon, who was now held up as the only obstacle to the peace of the world.

On the 1st of February an engagement was fought, which Lord Burghersh in his dispatch calls the battle of La Rothiere; the French, that of Brinne. The troops immediately engaged on both sides amounted to 70, or 80,000 men. The whole of the allied corps were placed, as a particular mark of confidence, under the command of Marshal Blucher; and Bonaparte commanded the French in person. The engagement commenced at twelve o'clock. The Emperor of Russia, the King of Prussia, and Field-Marshal Prince Schwartzberg, were on the ground. Both armies occupied extended positions. The most obstinate resistance was experienced at the village of La Rothiere, where Bonaparte led the young guards in an attack, and had a horse shot under him. At twelve at night, victory crowned the valour of the allied troops, and the skilful combinations and movements of their commanders. The enemy, defeated at all points, retreated in two columns upon Lesmont, Lieswotut, and Ronay. His loss, which could not be ascertained, was supposed to be immense. Seventy-three peices of cannon, and four thousand prisoners; were taken by the allies. The Prince Royal of Wirtemberg and General Wrede pursued the enemy in his retreat, and General Guilay took Lesmont by assault. The result of the battle was the immediate advance of the allies.

As we shall have occasion more particularly to detail the military movements of the allied armies, in the Memoirs we propose to give of their great commanders-in-chief, Prince Schwartzberg and Marshal Blucher, we shall briefly here state that, between the 1st and 20th of February, several other sanguinary battles were fought, and the head quarters of the grand army were now at Troyes, in the heart of France.

On the 22d, a plan of operations, similar to those pursued with so much success before Dresden was con-

centrated between the two commanders-in-chief, Prince Schwartzberg and General Blucher, who crossed the Marne, in order to effect a junction with Winzingerode, Bulow, and Woronzow. On the 27th, Bonaparte quitted Troyes to pursue him.

On the 28th, Prince Schwartzberg again advanced, and defeated Marshal Oudinot, between Bar-sur-Seine and Troyes, taking ten pieces of cannon, and 3000 prisoners. Troyes again surrendered to the allies by capitulation. The allies then advanced to Nogent.

The negotiations, which had been carried on by the plenipotentiaries of the belligerents at Chatillon, were now broken off.

At Soissons, Blucher was attacked for two successive days by the whole French force, without effect. They gave up the attempt on the afternoon of the 6th; and, crossing the Aisne at Bery, they assaulted the left of Blucher's army at Craone, where Bonaparte, by his old manoeuvre of bringing his entire army to bear upon a small portion of his adversary's, obtained a momentary advantage. On the 9th, the left of the allies, commanded by Generals D'York' Kleist, and Sacken, were attacked by the French, directed by Bonaparte in person. Some ground was lost at the onset; but, at the village of Atheis, the possession of which would have almost insured him victory, he was checked through the vigilance of the veteran, who, foreseeing the event, had dispatched a sufficient force to this point, under the command of Prince William of Prussia. The scale was now turned. The French were routed and vigorously pursued on the Rheims road as far as Corbeny. The three generals continued the pursuit during the night of the 9th, and on the 10th and 11th, taking prisoners and cannon at every step. On the morning of the 10th, they had taken 4000 prisoners, an immense quantity of ammunition and baggage, and forty-five pieces of cannon. On the 12th, the allies a second time entered Rheims, and 3000 more prisoners were added to those already taken; the right division of the French army, was under the command of Marmont after Bonaparte had quitted it.



The allies followed up their success, and having crossed to the right of the Aube on the 22d, lost no time in adopting the bold resolution of forming the junction of the two armies to the westward; thus placing themselves between the French army and Paris, and proceeding with a united force, of at least 200,000 men, to the capital of the French empire.

About 10,000 of the national guards, mixed with some old soldiers, made a feeble resistance to the progress of the Silesian army, between La Ferte, Jouarre, and Meaux; but General Horne attacked them, and placing himself gallantly at the head of some squadrons, he pierced into a mass of infantry, taking, himself, the French general prisoner.

Different bridges were constructed on the Marne, to enable the grand army to file over in various columns; and the whole pursued their march, with very little interruption, towards the capital of the French empire.

The enemy's army, under the command of Joseph Bonaparte, aided by Marshals Mortier and Marmont, was found to occupy with their right the heights of Fontenoy, Romainville, and Belleville, and their left on Montmartre. They had also constructed several redoubts in the centre; and on the whole line was an immense artillery of 150 pieces.

His Serene Highness Prince Eugene of Wirtemberg's division of the 6th corps commenced the attack; and, after some loss, carried the heights of Romainville, the enemy retiring to those of Belleville, behind them.

Generals D'York and Kleist, with their corps of the Silesian army, debouched near St. Denis on Aubeville. A strong redoubt and battery of the enemy's in the centre kept General D'York's corps in check for some part of the day; but the right flank being gained by the heights of Romainville as well as their loss in every part of the field, and finally, the complete discomfiture on all sides, reduced them to the necessity of sending a flag of truce, to demand a cessation of hostilities, they giving up all the ground without the barrier of Paris, till further ar-



rangements could be made. The heights were placed in the hands of the allies at the moment when Count Langeron's corps was about to storm them, and had already taken possession of the rest of the hill.

His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Russia, the King of Prussia, (who were present in all the actions) and Prince Schwartzemberg, with the humanity which must excite the applause while it calls for the admiration of all Europe, acceded to a proposition to prevent the capital from being sacked and destroyed.

The Emperor Alexander, with the King of Prussia, marched into Paris on the morning of the 31st, when they were received by all ranks of the population with the warmest acclamations. The windows of the best houses were filled by well-dressed persons, waving white handkerchief, and clapping their hands; the populace, intermixed with many of a superior class, were in the streets pressing forward to see the Emperor, and to endeavour to touch his horse. The general cry was, "*Vive L'Empereur Alexander!*" "*Vive notre Libérateur!*" "*Vive le Roi de Prusse!*" Very many persons appeared with white cockades, and there was a considerable cry of "*Vive Louis XVIII!*" "*Vivent les Bourbons!*" which gradually increased. Their Imperial and Royal Majesties proceeded to Champs Elysées, where a great part of the army passed in review before them, and, as usual, in the most exact order. The national guards themselves cleared the avenues for the allied troops to pass through, in all the pomp of military parade, the day after a severe action.

On the 2d of April, the Emperor gave audience to the Senate, who came to present the result of their deliberations as to the plan of their future government. After having received the homage of this body—

"A man, who called himself my ally," said the Emperor Alexander, "entered my states as an unjust aggressor; it is against him I have made war, not against France. I am the friend of the French people; what you have just done redoubles this sentiment; it is just, it is wise, to give to France wise and liberal institutions, which

may be conformable to the present state of knowledge. My allies and myself come only to protect the liberty of your decisions."

The Emperor stopped a moment; then his Majesty continued, with the most affecting emotion—

"As a proof of the durable alliance which I mean to contract with your nation, I restore to it all the French prisoners which are in Russia\*: the Provisional Government had already asked this of me; I grant it to the Senate, in consequence of the resolutions which it has taken to-day."

The Senate withdrew, penetrated with sentiments of gratitude and of the highest admiration.

The abdication of Bonaparte, and the restoration of the Bourbons, which immediately took place, formed the glorious close of the series of extraordinary events, of which we have given a rapid sketch in the preceding pages of this Memoir; each of them succeeding the other in such quick and regular succession, and with such increase of importance, that we found neither opportunity or inclination to interrupt the connection of the narrative by any observation of our own.

We have now arrived, with the illustrious subject of this Memoir, at an epoch in the history of his glorious career the most splendid that ever historian recorded—the epoch of Europe delivered from a tyranny that, until the very moment of its downfall, exhibited no signs of decay: and we have no hesitation in asserting, that to the fortitude, perseverance, and magnanimity of the Emperor Alexander, the glory of the conquest is due; that he has been the agent appointed by Providence to restore peace to the world, and by the sword to destroy the power of the MAN OF THE SWORD.

During the stay of the Emperor in Paris, all ranks of people were delighted by his affability; and it was said of him, that he took more pains to conquer hearts than

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\* The number of these prisoners amounted to near 200,000 men.

kingdoms. His Imperial Majesty remained but to receive the monarch his arms had restored to the throne of his ancestors.

The Emperor of Russia, immediately upon his arrival at Paris, rode on horseback to the Thuilleries, examined every thing, and praised the taste with which it was adorned. "I have found France very fine," said his Majesty, "but I shall leave it in a much more flourishing condition." Being shewn the Saloon of Peace, he said, "What use could Bonaparte make of this saloon?" When he came to the great gallery of the Musuem, he said, "Ten days are necessary to see this fine collection." - Observing that some pictures were removed, he said, "His character must have been quite misunderstood, if any fear had been entertained for the Museum." The monument of the Place Vendome was taken under the protection of the high allied powers; the statue of Bonaparte, at the top of it, was to be replaced by that of Peace. As the Emperor Alexander rode by it, he said, "I should be afraid of becoming giddy, if I stood so high." "Your Majesty's arrival at Paris has been long expected and desired," said somebody. "I should have been here sooner," replied the Emperor: "attribute my delay to French valour."

This country was then to be honoured by his presence; and accordingly, on the 6th of June, at half-past six in the afternoon, the illustrious subject of our Memoir, accompanied by the King of Prussia, landed from the Impregnable and Jason on the British shores at Dover. Their Majesties were also accompanied by the two eldest sons of the King of Prussia, Prince William his brother, Prince Frederic his nephew, Prince Augustus his cousin, Marshal Blucher, Baron Humbolt, Counts Hardenberg and Nesselrode, and other illustrious personages. Their Majesties were received on shore by Lords Yarmouth, Bentinck, and the Earl of Rosslyn. The Duke of Clarence, who brought them from Boulogne, had provided a splendid entertainment, of which most of the royal persons partook. Counts Platoff, Barclay de Tolly, and Tolstoi, and Prince Metternich the Austrian minister, had previously landed.



The Duchess of Oldenberg, the sister of the Emperor, was already amongst us; and had, during the time she had been in England, made herself universally known and respected, by making herself acquainted with our customs and institutions, and finding out the proper character of the nation through the domestic results of its knowledge and public spirit. The very character of the Duchess of Oldenberg augured well for her illustrious brother; and the affection he is said to bear her, still more.

The object of this lady in visiting England was said to be the restoration of her health, which has been affected by the death of the Duke her husband. The cause of that event was the Duke's constant attendance upon sick and wounded prisoners, which brought on a malignant fever; and during the last four days of his life, his Imperial consort would suffer nobody to come near him but herself. The immediate consequence of her loss was a succession of fainting fits, to which she is still subject; and these were followed by a settled melancholy, which (by the advice of her physicians, and chiefly by the tenderness and anxiety of her brother, the Russian Emperor, who is said to be very fond of her) she has been induced to relieve by change of scene and climate, and the amusements of society. Her nerves are said to have been so weakened, that for a long period she could not bear either music nor perfumes; no flowers were allowed to be introduced into her apartments; and at the Carlton-House concert she was so affected, that she burst into tears, and on her return home had one of her usual fits.

The Duchess has two sons; she brought one, who is still an infant, with her; the other was left with the Emperor Alexander. Her Highness's fortune is about 200,000 rubles (10,000*l.*) per annum.

The Duchess is about twenty-six years of age, and has been now a widow a year and a half. She chiefly wears black, with three ostrich feathers, of the same colour, fixed to a simple head-dress. Her person is of the middle size, with a handsome face, and expressive



eye; her manners polished in the extreme, being soft, persuasive, and even eloquent.

The illustrious visitors had been expected some days, and thousands were anxiously waiting to catch the first glance. The roads from Dover to London were thronged with horse and foot, and vehicles of all sorts and condition, decorated with ribbands, flags, and laurels. Their Majesties left Dover on Tuesday morning at nine, in their plain travelling carriage; and when, at three o'clock, Sir C. Stewart announced at Welling that the monarchs had gone to town in a private manner two hours before, the disappointment was great.

The Russian Emperor, having thus avoided the multitude, entered London about half-past two o'clock in a carriage and four; and, driving straight to Pulteney Hotel, Piccadilly, had ascended the first flight of stairs before it was announced that he was arrived. The Grand-Duchess met and embraced him on the stairs; and the shouts of "Long live the Emperor!" soon brought his Majesty to the balcony, where he continued for some time to gratify the people with a sight of his person, occasionally bowing to them in the most condescending manner, in answer to their shoutings. At half past four, the Emperor, accompanied by Count Lieven, went to see the Prince Regent at Carlton-House. He was received in a very private manner by his Royal Highness, who gave his Majesty a most hearty welcome.

The pursuits of the Emperor Alexander, like those of his sister the Grand-Duchess, afforded evident proofs of praiseworthy curiosity and good taste, with a perfect indifference to show and parade.

Such was his activity, that those who wished to see him were obliged to rise as early as himself. In the morning he breakfasted by eight; and on the 8th of June, walked in Kensington Gardens with his sister; at ten, proceeded to Westminster-Hall and the Abbey, to view the tombs of the illustrious dead. His sister and himself next visited the British Museum. At one o'clock he held a levee at Cumberland-House, which he

used as his state apartments, and was visited by the Prince Regent; and, between five and six the same day, attended the court of her Majesty, held expressly for their introduction, at the Queen's Palace; and afterwards dined with the Prince Regent at Carlton-House.

On the 9th the Emperor Alexander rode through various parts of the metropolis, passing the Royal Exchange, and making nearly a circuit of the east and western quarters of London, returning to the Pulteney Hotel to breakfast. The Emperor, with the Duchess and a party of distinction, then left the hotel in their carriages, without military escort, and proceeded through the strand and city to the London Docks.

On the 10th, the allied sovereigns, after viewing Richmond Terrace, with which they were particularly delighted, and Hampton Court, attended Ascot races: from the races, they accompanied the Queen to Frogmore, and partook of a magnificent entertainment which had been provided by her Majesty for 100 persons.

On the 11th, the Bank of England was visited by the Emperor and the Duchess of Oldenburg. The governor, deputy governor, and directors conducted the visitors through the various departments of that extensive building. His Imperial Majesty listened with great attention to the explanations which were given of the several offices, and expressed much admiration at the systematic manner in which the business appeared to be conducted. He added, with much affability and condescension, that he was extremely obliged for the polite attentions shewn to him and his sister; and that he was convinced from what he had heard and seen, that the character acquired by the people of England, for their extensive commerce, their wealth, and their liberality, was not more great than deserved.

On Sunday, the 12th, the allied monarchs appeared in Hyde Park on horseback, to gratify the curiosity of the public. The Emperor left the Pulteney Hotel about two o'clock mounted on a most beautiful horse, dressed in an English scarlet uniform, with a large collection of feathers in his hat. He proceeded to St. James's Palace,

and called at Clarence House for the King of Prussia to accompany him; but his saddle-horses not being ready, Alexander proceeded towards the Park, and his Majesty followed. They were received with the most enthusiastic applauses, of which they appeared truly sensible.

On the 13th, the illustrious visitors and the Prince Regent embarked at Whitehall, in the admiralty, navy, and ordnance barges, for Woolwich; and, after a minute examination of that immense artillery depôt, the royal party returned in their carriages to town, and dined with the Marquis of Stafford.

On the 14th, the royal strangers visited Oxford, with the Prince Regent. Alexander and his amiable and accomplished sister arrived in an open barouche of the Prince's, drawn simply by four post-horses. The Emperor was dressed in a plain blue coat, wore his hair without powder, and with his hat continued bowing to the people, constantly and gracefully, the whole way up the High-Street; and after visiting all the colleges, and the Clarendon Printing Office, sat down to a sumptuous dinner at the Radcliff Library. At about eleven o'clock the party separated, to see the illuminations, which then blazed universally through the streets of Oxford. Between twelve and one, a tremendous storm of thunder and lightning burst suddenly over the city, and a torrent of rain soon extinguished the numerous lights.

On the 15th, the degree of Doctor in Civil Law was conferred on the Emperor of Russia, King of Prussia, Duke of Wellington, and the veteran Blucher, in the most grand and impressive manner.

The Prince Regent and the allied Sovereigns then honoured the corporation of Oxford with a visit, in their council-chamber. The city fitted up the whole interior of the town-hall with flights of seats for 600 spectators, leaving an avenue, railed off and carpeted, for the passage of the procession. Upon the arrival of the procession in the council-chamber, a loyal address to the Prince was read by the town-clerk, which his Royal Highness received most graciously, conferring the honour of knighthood on the reader; the mayor received the same dis-



tion. The honorary freedom of the city was then announced as having been voted to the Emperor of Russia, the King of Prussia, the Hereditary Prince of Orange, the Prince of Mecklenburg, Prince Metternich, Prince Blucher, and several other illustrious personages. At one o'clock, the royal party, attended by the Chancellor and Lord Sidmouth (one of the trustees), visited the observatory. The professor of astronomy, pointed out its most striking features, and the different instruments, with which they were highly pleased; and, at two, partook of an elegant breakfast at All Souls College. Soon after which the Emperor of Russia and the King of Prussia left the university, on a tour to Blenheim and Stowe.

The Emperor and Grand-Duchess did not return to London, until Thursday the 23d, in the morning, between two and three o'clock; and as they rode in an open carriage, they suffered from the effects of a thunder-storm, and heavy fall of rain. At eleven, his Imperial Majesty went to St. Paul's cathedral; to witness the annual assemblage of charity children; a sight which appeared to interest him more than any thing he had yet seen in England.

On Friday morning, they proceeded to the military asylum at Chelsea; from thence to Chelsea Hospital; the manufactory at Battersea, where iron shoes and screws are made; and then to Greenwich, to view the hospital and naval asylum. His Majesty returned to dine with the merchants and bankers of London, at Merchant Taylors' Hall in Threadneedle-street.

On Saturday a grand fête was given by the city, to the Prince Regent and his royal guests; upon which occasion, the procession to Guildhall was the same as on the first visit of the King to the city after his coronation, and the whole fête was conducted on ancient precedents.

Such was the eagerness of the people to obtain a view of this magnificent sight, that five, ten, fifteen, and even twenty guineas were given for seats in favourable situations. The cavalcade set off from Carlton-House about four o'clock. It consisted of numerous state and other



carriages, troops of cavalry and infantry, of various descriptions, yeomen, heralds, &c. superbly arrayed. The Prince Regent was accompanied by the King of Prussia and the Prince of Orange. His carriage, which was drawn by eight cream-coloured horses, was preceded and followed by detachments of guards. The Emperor Alexander and his sister, in the Regent's state chariot, drawn by six horses, followed at some distance. The whole was closed by a body of cavalry. When they reached Temple-bar, they were met by the Lord Mayor, and city officers on horseback. The horses as well as the men were magnificently dressed; and such was the beauty of the beasts, both from the east and the west, and so gorgeously were they ornamented, that they came in for a large share of the admiration of the public. The company, on reaching Guildhall, entered by a covered illuminated passage. The hall itself had been decorated under the direction of Mr. Dance the architect, with great taste and ability. By an external erection, he had, it seems, contrived to illuminate the painted windows, so as to throw into the hall the rich and warm influence of light, with which all the gothic divisions of the two windows were articulated; and which, striking on the brilliant circle of females in the galleries beneath, spread a glow on the faces of the ladies, whose head-dresses sparkled with diamond, that had an effect which no painter could possibly equal. The animation and brilliancy of the scene was unequalled by any thing ever seen in any country. Lord Wellesley is reported to have said, that it surpassed any thing he had ever seen of eastern magnificence. The walls were hung with bright crimson cloth up to a gallery for the ladies, above which there was a beautiful cordon of lamps. The two monuments of the Earl of Chatham and Mr. Pitt were left uncovered; magnificent chandeliers of cut glass were suspended from the roof; and there was a blaze of gold and silver candelabras with wax lights on all the tables.

At seven o'clock, dinner was announced; and the royal guests marched in procession round the tables, while the bands of music played the popular air of "O, the roast beef of Old England!" The sovereigns then advanced to the east end of the Hall, where a platform was raised, on which the royal table was placed.

The Prince was seated here, in a gilt chair, under a sumptuous canopy, composed of rich crimson velvet and crimson sarsnet, superbly fringed and decorated with lace, ropes, tassels, &c. all of gold. On his right hand sat the Emperor, the Duke of York, &c.; on his left, the King of Prussia, the Grand-Duchess, &c.: in all, twenty-five persons. The display of gold plate at this table was prodigious. Candelabras, epergnes, tureens, ewers, cups, dishes, glaciers, &c. glittered in every part, to which the wax lights gave the most brilliant effect. All the companies had sent in their plate; and the whole was valued at upwards of £200,000. The dinner consisted of every rarity; and in its preparation neither skill nor cost had been spared.

At half-past ten, the royal party withdrew to take coffee, and shortly afterwards left the Hall, in the same state in which they came. The marshal's men, and all their attendants, had flambeaux in their hands, which gave the procession a novel and brilliant appearance. It arrived at St. James's just before twelve o'clock.

On Sunday morning, the Emperor of Russia and the Duchess of Oldenberg went to the Russian Private Chapel, in Welbeck Street; and afterwards to the Meeting of the Society of Friends (Quakers), in Peter's Court, St. Martin's Lane. In the afternoon, they paid a visit to the Princess Charlotte, at Warwick House; and from thence went to Chiswick, on a visit to the Duke of Devonshire.

On Monday morning, the Emperor Alexander and King of Prussia, with all the foreign princes, accompanied by the Prince Regent, witnessed a splendid review in Hyde Park, of all the troops that were in the neighbourhood of London.

In the evening, her Majesty held a private court, at which the Emperor of Russia and his sister, and the King of Prussia and his sons, were present; when they all formally took leave of her Majesty. The illustrious strangers afterwards went to a dress party at the Duke of Cambridge's; and, about twelve o'clock, attended White's grand fête at Burlington House.

On Wednesday morning, at nine o'clock, the Emperor, the Grand-Duchess, her son, and the Prince of Württemberg, departed from London, in an open carriage of the Prince Regent's. As they were getting in, a woman presented a book to the Emperor, which he handed to a page on the steps; another woman presented him with a very fine rose, which the Emperor gave to the Grand-Duchess, and she placed it in her bosom. The carriage then drove off, amidst the loud huzzas of the populace; but the numbers were few in comparison to what there had generally been, in consequence of its not being publicly known that they were now to depart. The carriage drove to the Tower, and after to other places; and passed over London Bridge at half-past twelve o'clock, in their way to the seat of Lord Liverpool, at Coombe Wood, to breakfast; from thence they proceeded to Portsmouth, where they arrived in the dusk of the evening.

On Thursday morning the 24th, the Prince Regent, who entered Portsmouth the preceding afternoon, rode in his carriage to the dock-yard, where he was met by the allied sovereigns, the Royal Dukes, the Duchess of Oldenburg, and a numerous retinue of general officers. After paying a visit at the house of the Honourable C. Grey, the commissioner of the yard, his Royal Highness and suite embarked in the King's barge, and the illustrious strangers embarked in the port admiral's barge, amid the cheers of the town. Fourteen ships of the line, chiefly of the first rate, were moored at anchor, in two lines, from south-east to north-west, extending nearly four miles. On the arrival of the Prince Regent's barge within sight of the fleet, a royal salute of twenty-one guns was fired by the whole fleet at once. And on the Prince Regent arriving on board, the crew welcomed him with three cheers, and the band played "God save the King." Four frigates and other vessels of war were under weigh during the whole time, manœuvring, and skilfully displaying their naval tactics.

His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, and his illustrious visitors, returned to the Sally-port, where they landed at four o'clock. The royal standard having been struck on board the Impregnable, the yards were again manned, a third royal salute by the whole fleet was fired,



and a fourth by the party landing, by signal from the platform. The admirals and captains of the fleet assembled on board the flag-ship by signal, and accompanied the Prince Regent on shore in procession. Ten thousand troops were drawn up in Portsmouth: and a *feu de joie* was fired, and repeated several times, with great dexterity. The officers of the fleet, and a distinguished number, dined with the Prince Regent at the Government House.

The spectacle of a naval review could not fail of being extremely interesting to the Emperor Alexander; who, at the commencement of his reign, had obtained permission to distribute three hundred boys, selected and previously prepared by the Russian government, in quality of midshipmen, on board the British fleets. The author of a pamphlet, entitled "A Sketch of the Political State of Europe at the beginning of February 1802," objects very strongly to this permission. "These boys," says he, "have been admitted, in my opinion, most injudiciously, to serve in our navy at that period of life at which our own midshipmen usually begin their career; and, having been picked out of numbers, on account of their superior intelligence and sprightliness, it is very evident that they are likely to derive every advantage from their apprenticeship which could be hoped for from the same number of British boys so chosen. They must inevitably be familiarized with the whole groundwork and system of naval tactics as they are practised in the British navy. This science and skill they will carry with them into their own country, where they will probably fill important situations, and lay the foundation of a Russian navy, which at some future period may rival our's. The period when this may happen is, no doubt, remote; yet this is the surest mode of lessening that distance of time: and, I think, posterity will owe little thanks to that foresight or prudence which has so impolitically conceded, and which, carried to a greater extent, may be productive of very serious mischief." We make this extract of sentiments which are, perhaps, popular in this country, to protest nevertheless against them. We do not at all participate in the alarm of the author upon this head; but, on the contrary, see in the increase of the Russian naval strength an accession to our own. It is desirable, that there should be a perpetual friend-

ship between the two empires, and nothing is so likely to conduce to it as equality of power. It is of the highest importance to the Russians to preserve an amicable intercourse with this country; and their attention to the improvement of their navy can have no reference to the possibility of any other situation. Human foresight or prudence is in general selfish, and always short-sighted; and it will be found that history contains no example of its success against those plans of Providence for the growth and civilization of nations, the progress of which is not to be impeded by the interference of any limited interest.

From Portsmouth, the Emperor Alexander, the King of Prussia, the Duchess of Oldenburg, and others of the illustrious visitors, pursued their journey to Dover, where they embarked, amidst the shouts and cheerings of an immense number of people, who had assembled to witness their departure.

All the royal party carried with them the blessings of the people they had been amongst, and left behind them an impression favourable to the continuance of their popularity. If the manner of his Majesty the King of Prussia was less obtrusive, less animated by joyful sensations, than his august ally, the sympathy he created excited but less interest.

The Emperor Alexander, during his fortnight's residence in London, as we have seen, was indefatigable in the pursuit of information. He seemed scarcely to allow himself to eat, drink, or sleep, so determined he was to see all that was worthy of observation; and when he was not so occupied, the sacrifice was to the curiosity of the people, who were so anxious to behold the conqueror of the tyrant. His Imperial Majesty's sister, the Grand-Duchess of Oldenburg, had, by her previous exertions, acquired the ability to direct and assist the Emperor in his interesting pursuit.

We shall here conclude this Memoir of the public life of the Emperor Alexander. It opened with the most beneficent plans for the welfare of the great family of Europe, and closes with their achievement. Happy will it be for the world, if his love of peace and practi-

cal forbearance prove an antidote to that thirst for military glory which has been so unfortunately excited in the French people by the man who had no other means for the maintenance of his power. Thrice happy would it be, if the illustrious example before us should become the object of noble emulation, and the CHRISTIAN SOLDIER alone entitled to our respect.

After having thus recited so many public actions, and shewn the political character of the illustrious subject of this Memoir, we must beg permission to insert an instance of his humanity, most fortunately exerted, in restoring to life, by his own personal exertion, a Polish peasant, who had been accidentally drowned in the river Willia, in Lithuania. This circumstance was communicated to the Royal Humane Society of London, by James Grange, Esq. in the following letter:

“DEAR SIR,

“His Imperial Majesty the Emperor Alexander, in one of his journeys through Poland, by his own perseverance and personal exertion, restored to life a peasant of that country, who had been drowned a considerable time. This very interesting occurrence came to my knowledge during my stay at St. Petersburg; and took place between Koyna and Wilna, in Lithuania, on the banks of the little river Willia, whence the last-mentioned town derives its name.

“The Emperor from some cause or other immaterial to the present subject, had considerably advanced his attendants; and, being led by the winding of the road within a short distance of the above-mentioned river, and perceiving several persons assembled near the edge of the water, out of which they appeared to be dragging something, instantly alighted, and approaching the spot, found it to be the body of a man apparently lifeless. Prompted by humanity alone, and without any other assistance than that of the ignorant boors around him, to whom he was no otherwise known, than that his uniform indicated an officer of rank, he had him conveyed to and laid on the side of a bank, and immediately proceeded with his own hands to assist in taking off the wet clothes from the apparent corpse, and to rub his temples, wrists, &c.



which his Imperial Majesty continued for a considerable time, using every other means (though destitute of any medical assistance) that appeared at the moment most likely to restore animation; but all without effect.

“In the midst of this occupation, the Emperor was joined by the gentlemen of his suite, among whom were Prince Wolkoasly and Count Liewen (two Russian noblemen), and Dr. Weilly, his Majesty’s head-surgeon, an English gentleman, whose professional abilities are so well known (at least on the continent) that they need no comment, who always travels with, and indeed never quits his Majesty at any time.

“Their exertions were immediately added to those of the Emperor; and, on the Doctor’s attempting to bleed the patient, his Majesty held and rubbed his arm, and gave every other assistance in his power. However, that, and all other means they could devise, proved equally ineffectual; so much so, that after above three hours fruitless attempts to recover him, the Doctor declared, to the extreme chagrin of the Emperor (who was by this time become very anxious about it), to be his opinion that life was quite gone, and that it was useless proceeding any further.

“Fatigued as he was by such continued exertion, the Emperor could not, however, rest satisfied, without entreating Dr. Weilly to persevere, and to make a fresh attempt to bleed him. The Doctor, although (as he declared to me himself, and from whose own mouth I have these particulars) he had not the slightest hope of being more successful in this than in former ones, proceeded, nevertheless, to obey the positive injunctions of his Imperial Majesty; when, the whole of them (the noblemen, &c.) making a last effort in rubbing, &c. the Emperor had, at length, the inexpressible satisfaction of seeing blood make its appearance, accompanied by a slight groan.

“The emotions of his Imperial Majesty on this occasion, the Doctor informed me, are not to be described; and, in the plenitude of his joy, he exclaimed in French, ‘Good God! this is the brightest day of my life!’ and

the tears which instantaneously sprang into his eyes, indicated that these words came from the heart.

“The accompanying snuff-box, on which this interesting event is faithfully though roughly delineated (the poor inhabitants of that part of Poland being no great artists), was sketched at a neighbouring town, for the purpose of commemorating this restoration; and is one of the four, presented, on the occasion, to the principal actors in it; namely, his Imperial Majesty, and the three gentlemen above mentioned, who are (though not very correctly, it is true) represented on it.

“Requesting you to excuse the hasty and imperfect way in which I have endeavoured to narrate this very affecting transaction, to which I feel myself incompetent to do adequate justice, allow me to assure you, Sir, of the sentiments of respect and esteem with which I beg leave to subscribe myself,

“Dear Sir,

“Your’s most faithfully,

“JAMES GRANGE.”

It has already been shewn, that the Emperor Alexander was, early in 1811, made aware of the designs of Bonaparte, and that every preparation was made throughout Russia to raise an adequate force to repel any threatened invasion. The war with the Turks was prolonged, to afford ostensible occasion for new levies, and the continued accumulation of military force in different parts of the empire. The people were universally informed, that the contest they so much desired was at hand; and the wisest and best men in Russia were selected to serve their country in the hour of trial.

The French Emperor was, for the first time, anticipated; and although, aware of this, he had strained every nerve to increase the amount of the invading force, by dragging with him the troops of all his vassal states, still he betrayed an evident fear of the result of a contest with a nation unanimous to defend themselves, loyal to enthusiasm, and of whose bravery he had had sufficient experience.

Far from exhibiting, however, any sort of arrogance, and not at all anticipating the high destiny to which Providence was about to call him, the independence of Russia and the northern powers was the most that he hoped to achieve, and this only after a struggle which he was prepared to expect would be tremendous and protracted.

All hope of successfully defending their frontier from the invaders being renounced, it was the plan of the Russian commanders to crush them in the bosom of their country; how effectually this was done, our readers must recollect. The visitation of Providence rapidly completed the ruin which had begun to fall on their enemies in consequence of this plan of attack and retreat; and the magnitude of this ruin opened views to the mind of Alexander, which, while he contemplated with awe, he determined to pursue. It was therefore, that, having driven the French out of Russia, he refused every offer of peace, and resolved not to sheath his sword until the independence of Germany was recovered.

At this period his views extended no farther: the Rhine was to be the limit of his victorious march, and rescued Germany his glorious labour. But the time was now come, when the head of Usurpation was to be bowed to the ground; it already drooped, and loud and deep was the voice of the oppressed.

Gigantic as were the efforts of Bonaparte, the good cause now triumphed; and on the banks of the Rhine the beneficent Alexander was implored to pursue his career of victory, and completed the work he had so happily begun. The Rhine was passed,—yet even now the voice of the people was respected by the allies: and if the French nation had really desired the continuation of the new dynasty, it was not intended to interfere with their internal government; and the declaration to this effect was issued.

In the mean time, however, the Dutch availed themselves of the opportunity to rise upon their tyrants and assert their independence: which was accordingly effected so completely, that the cause of the allies not only was



considerably strengthened, but their power to execute new plans greatly increased.

The proceedings in Holland were so sudden, and, if not unexpected, so much earlier than looked for, that the allies found they had, in the spirit of moderation which guided them, offered Bonaparte better terms than they now could execute. The insanity of the Corsican extricated them from this dilemma; and, as we have seen, he preferred to try the chance of war; but, no longer the "darling of victory," his struggles were in vain, and they were closed with the capitulation of Paris.

The moderation of the conquerors, their humanity, and, in particular, the mercy of the Emperor Alexander to an enemy who had destroyed the ancient capital of his empire, cannot be sufficiently applauded, and will for ever be remembered as an instance of the most heroic forbearance.

FINIS.

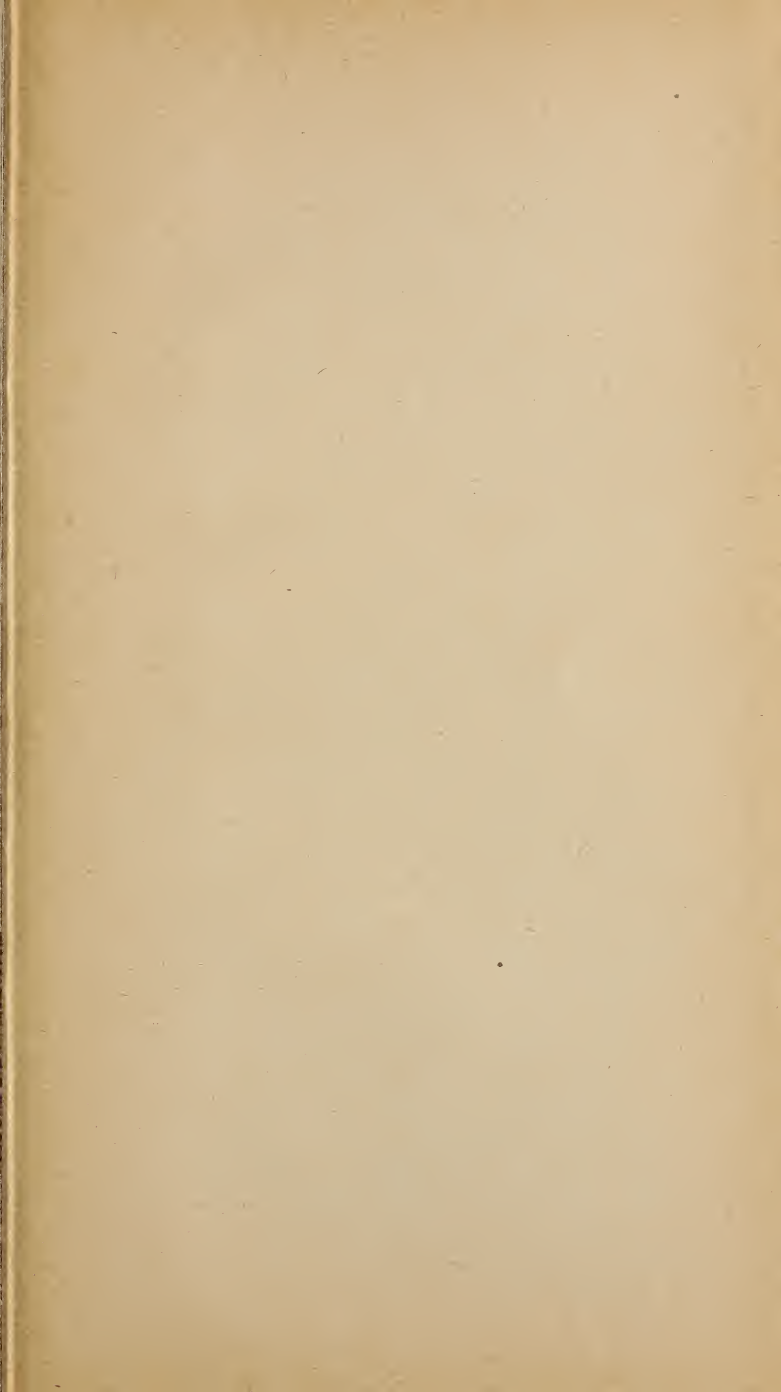






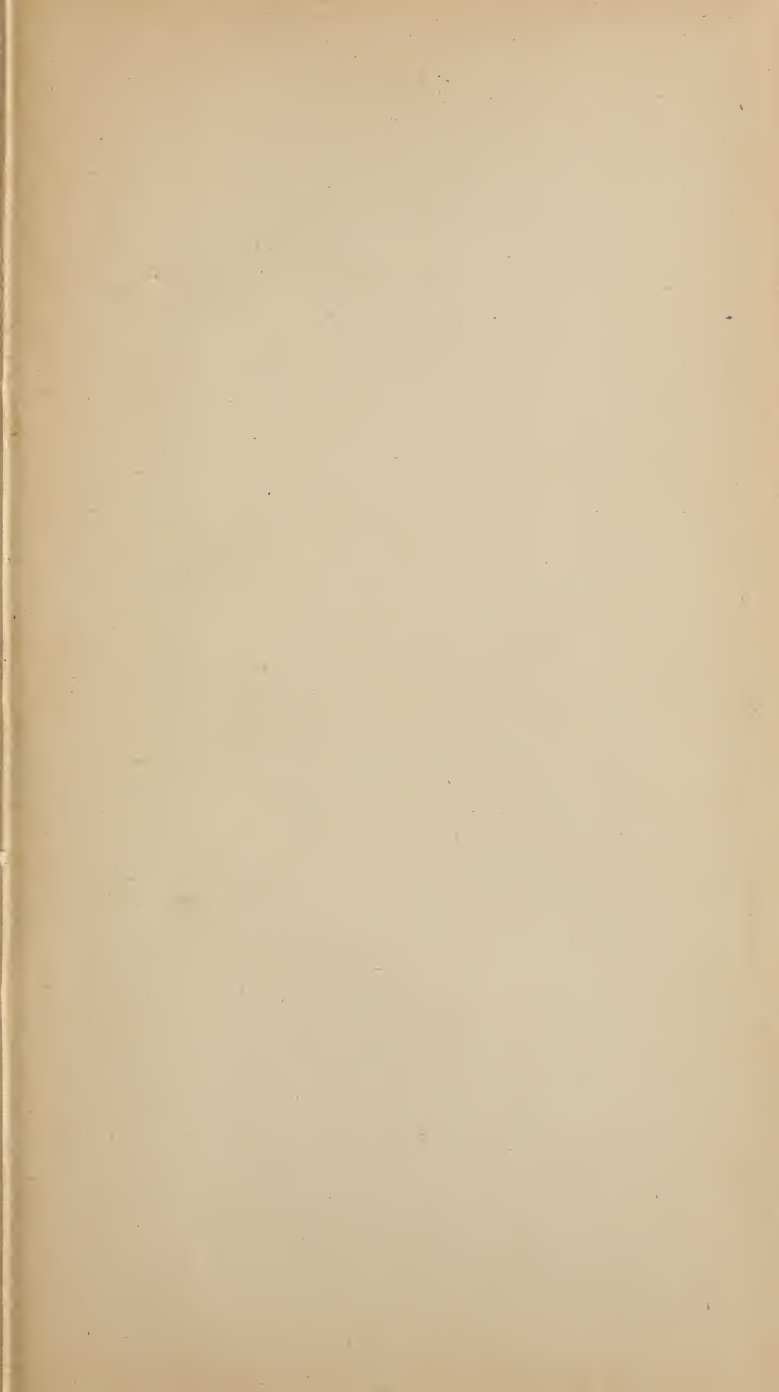


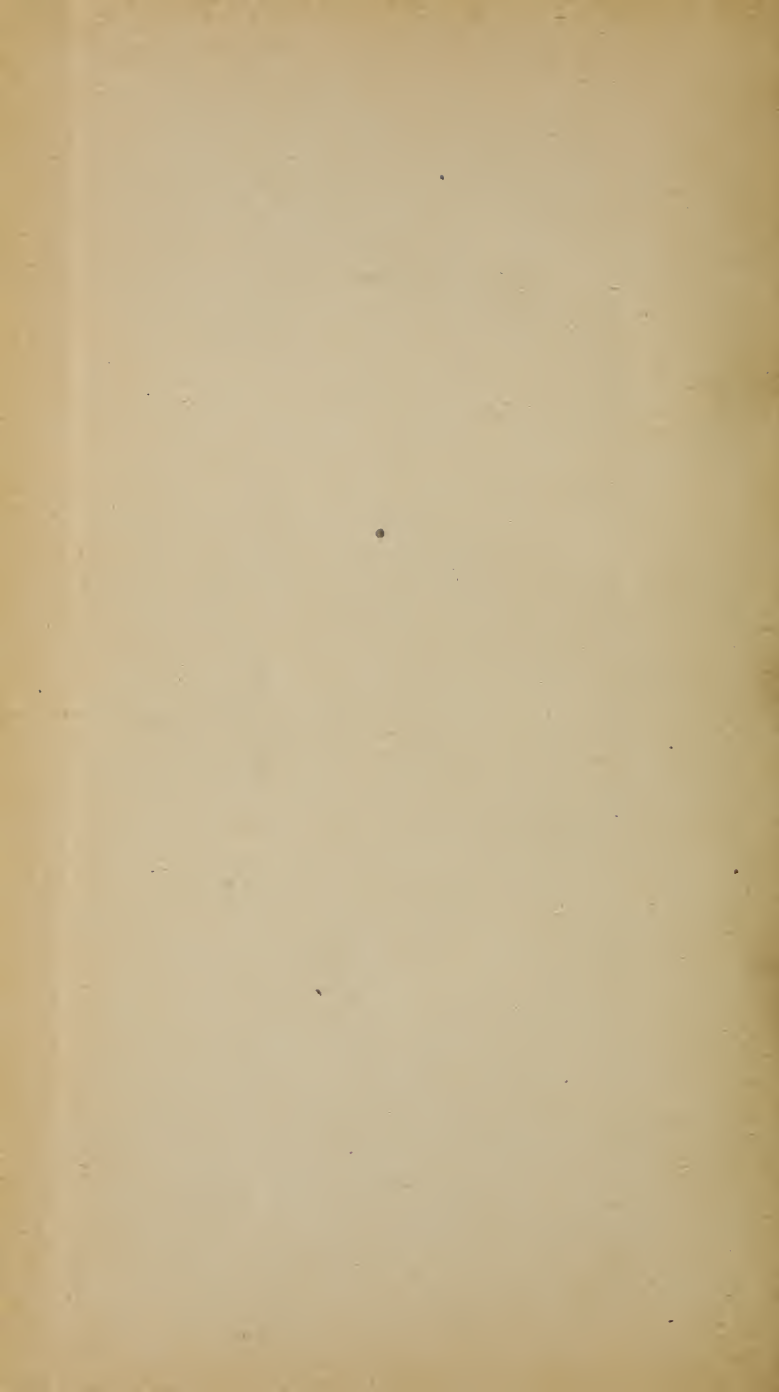






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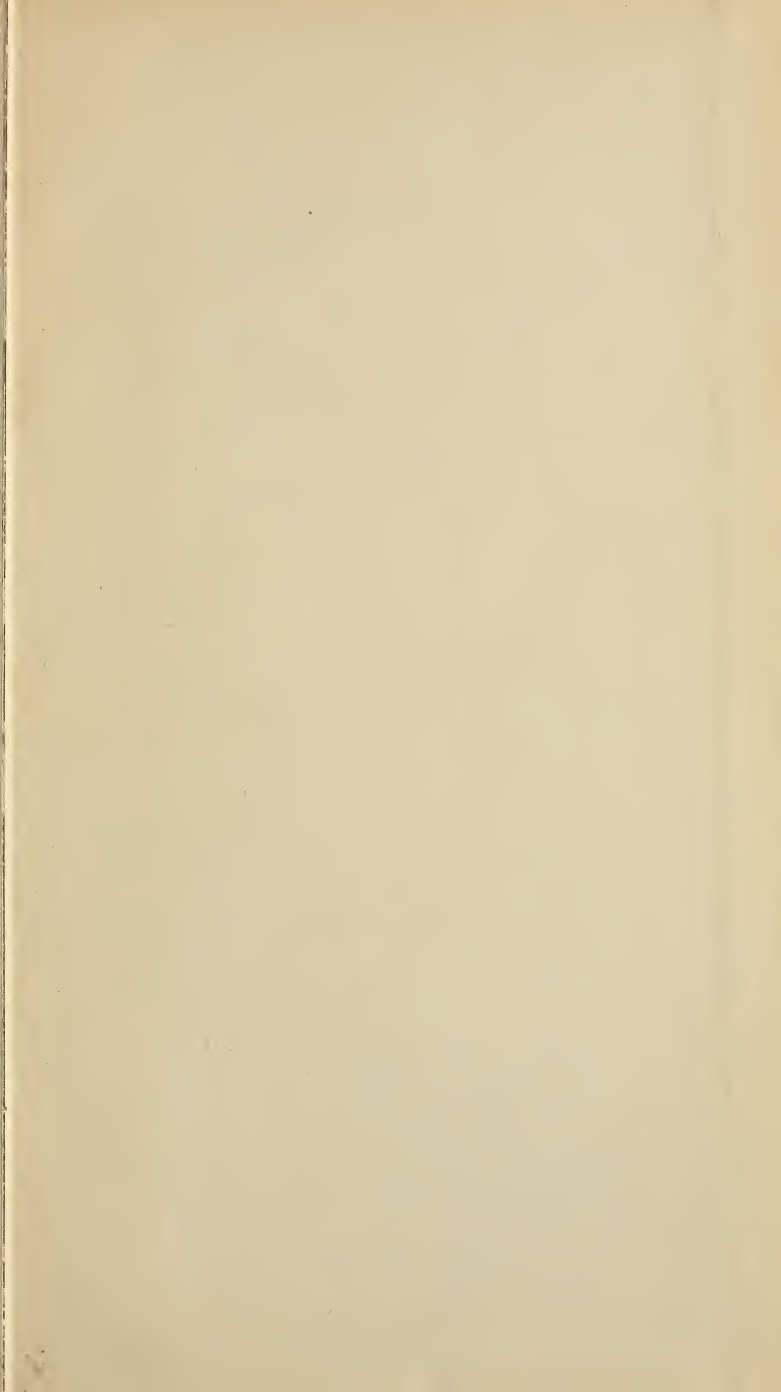








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